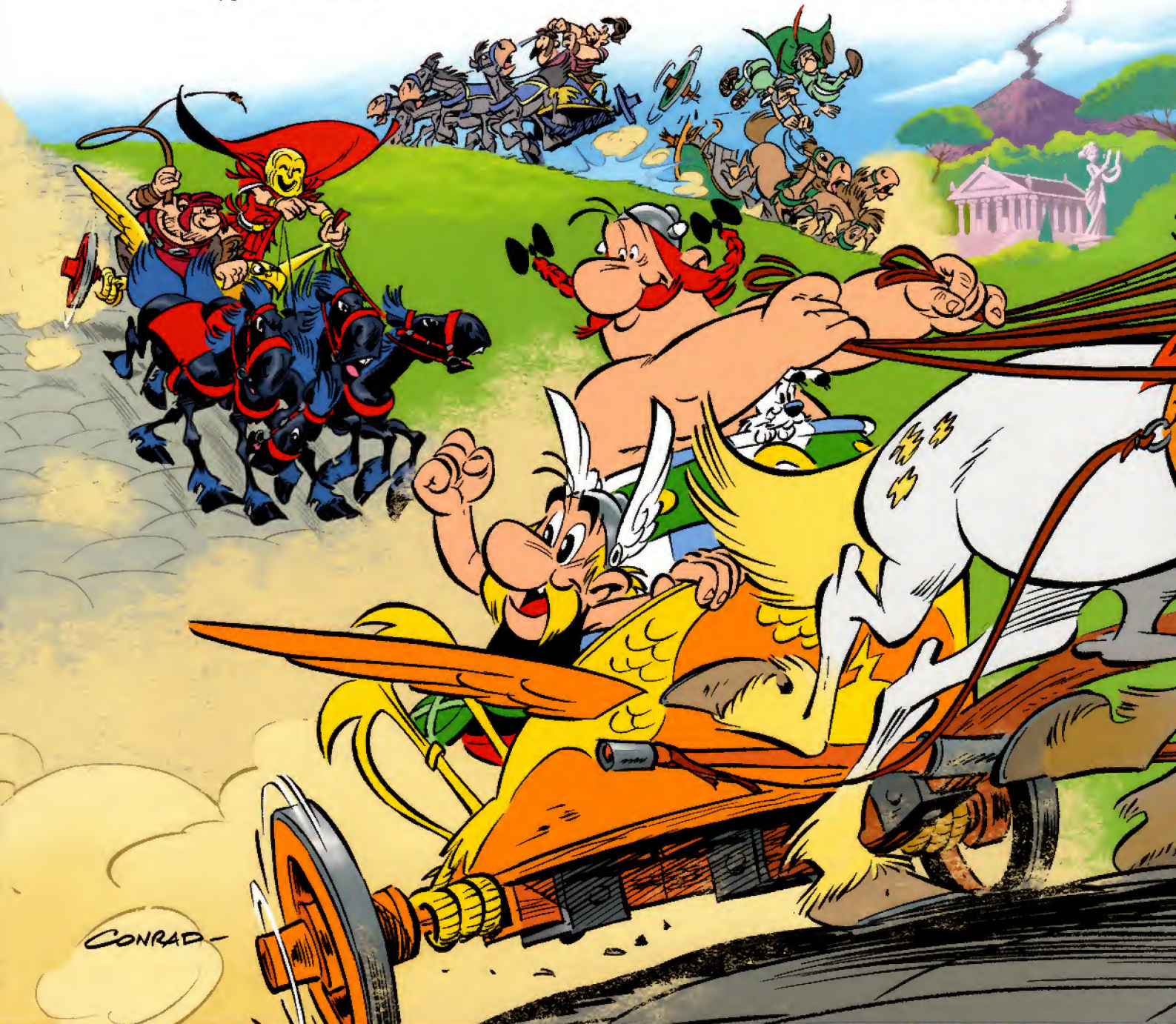


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix AND THE **CHARIOT RACE**

Written by Jean-Yves FERRI

Illustrated by Didier CONRAD



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE CHARIOT RACE

Written by JEAN-YVES FERRI

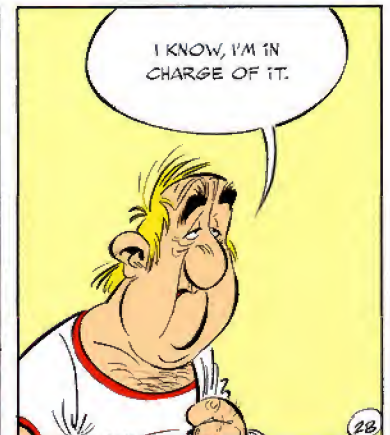
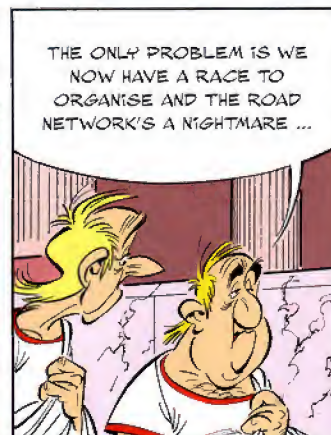
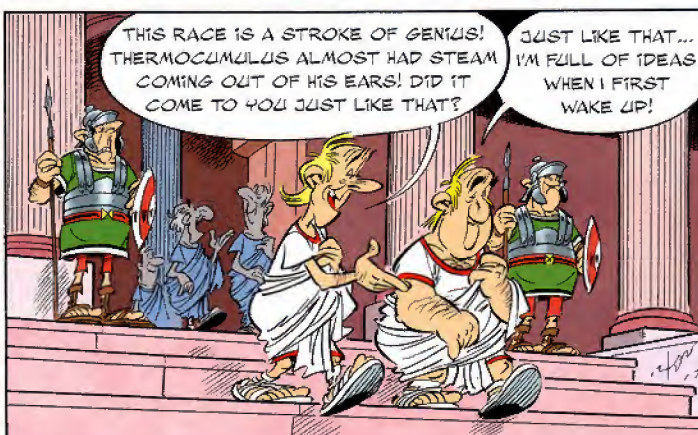
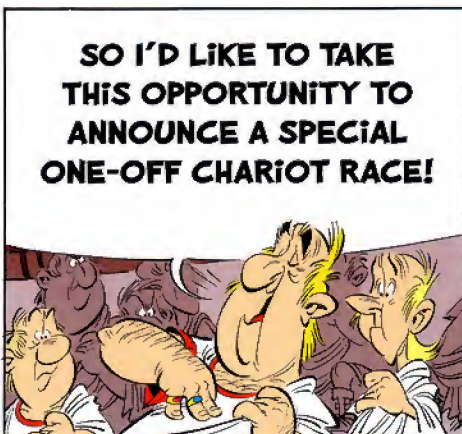
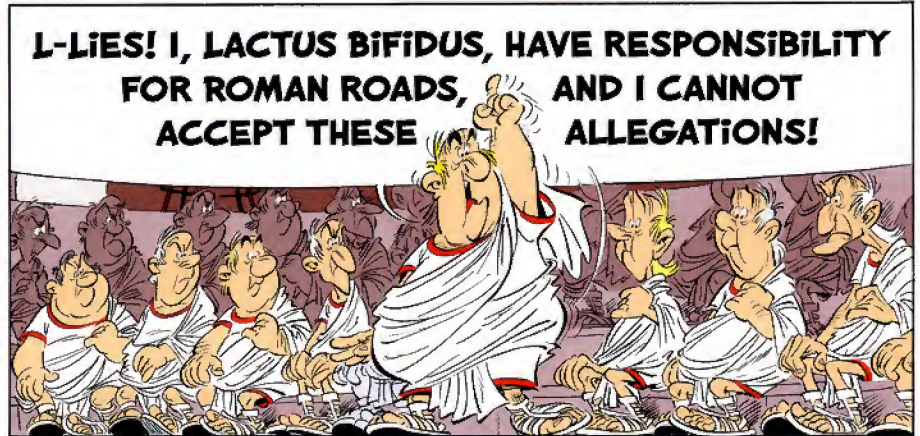
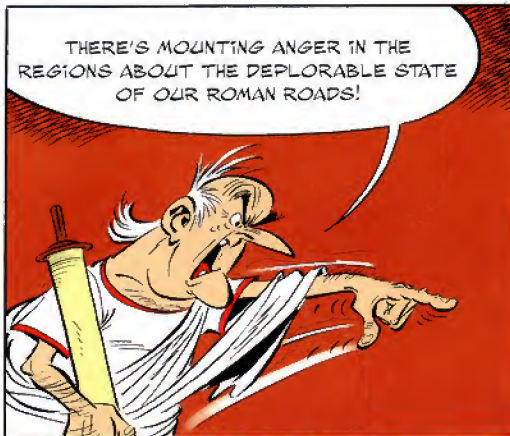
Illustrated by DIDIER CONRAD

Translated by ADRIANA HUNTER



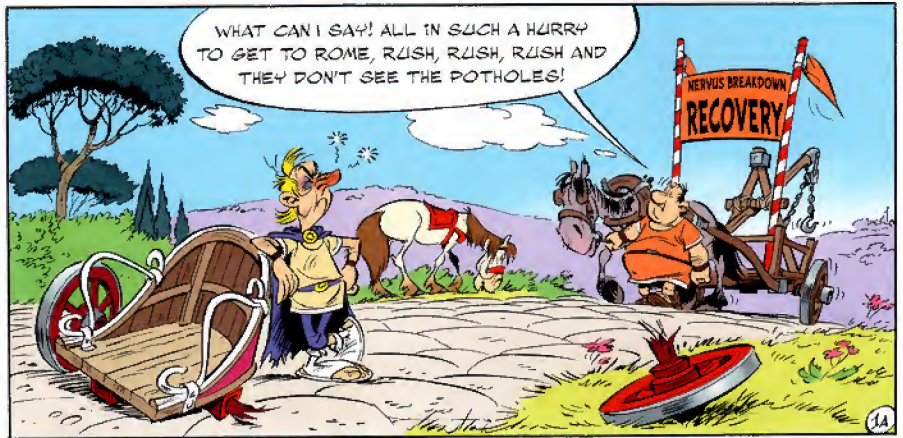
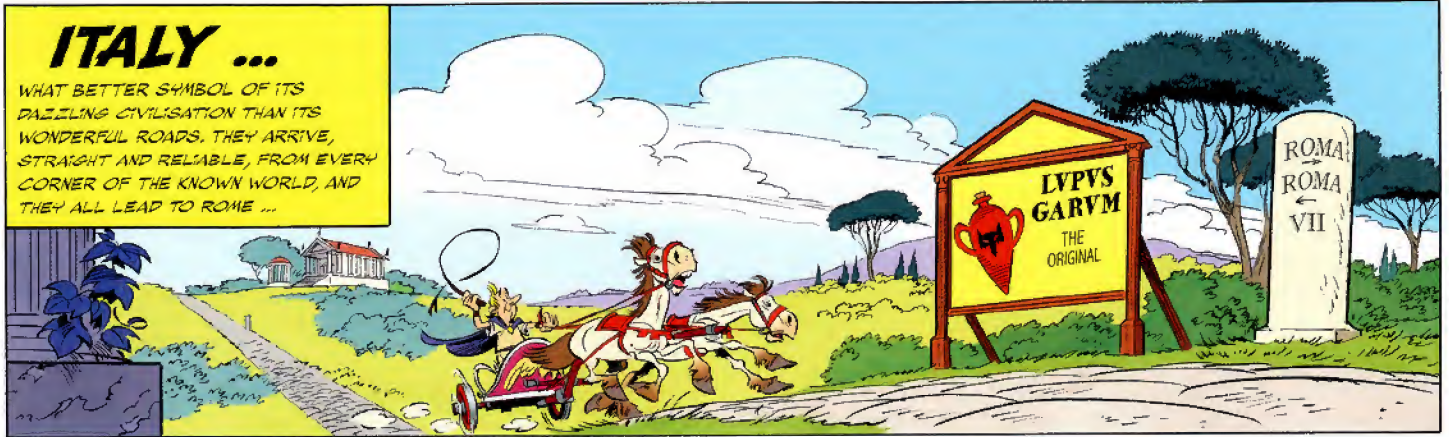
Colour by THIERRY MÉBARKI

Orion



ITALY ...

WHAT BETTER SYMBOL OF ITS
DAZZLING CIVILISATION THAN ITS
WONDERFUL ROADS. THEY ARRIVE,
STRAIGHT AND RELIABLE, FROM EVERY
CORNER OF THE KNOWN WORLD, AND
THEY ALL LEAD TO ROME ...



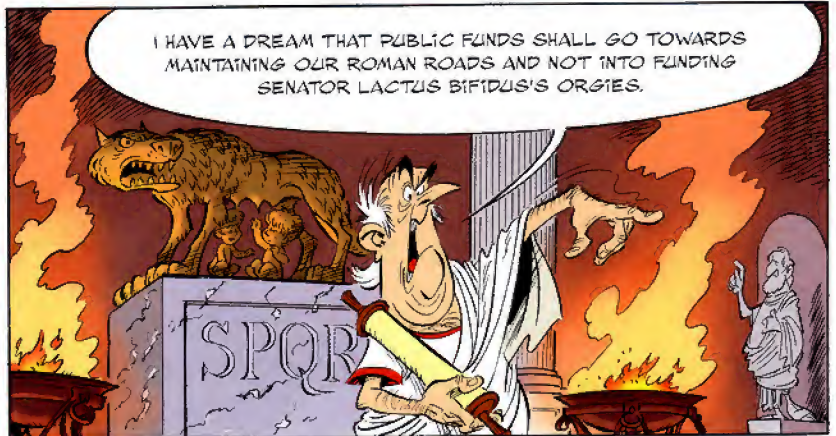
IN ROME,
SOME TIME
LATER ...

POTHOLES, PRECISELY!
WHICH IS WHY

I HAVE A DREAM!

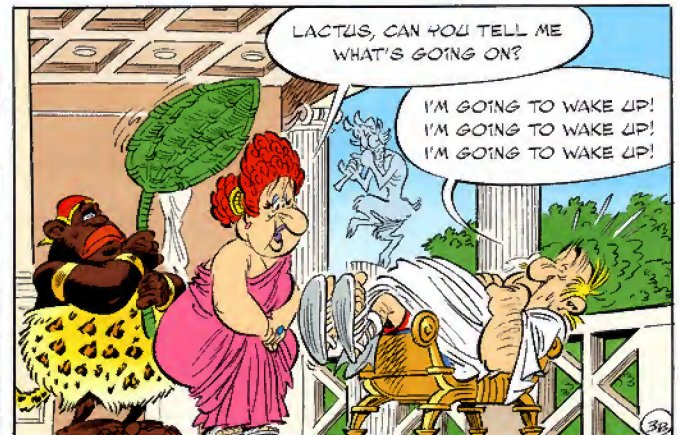
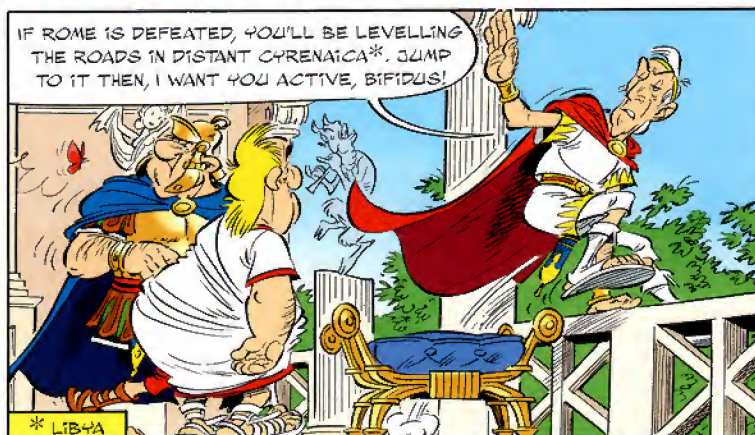
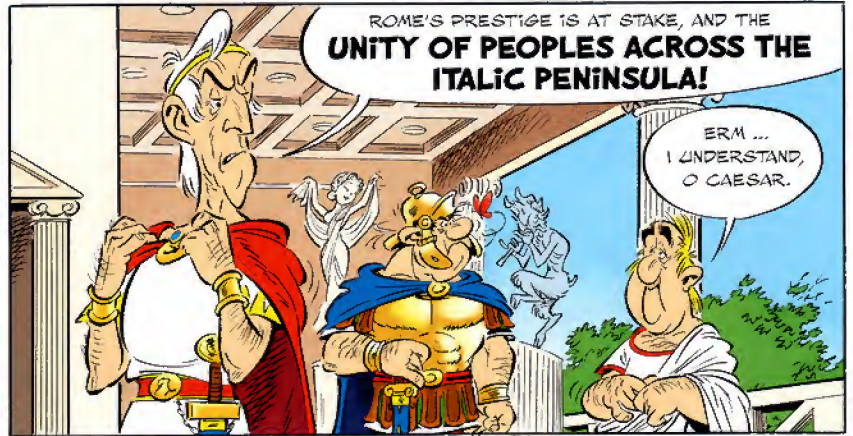
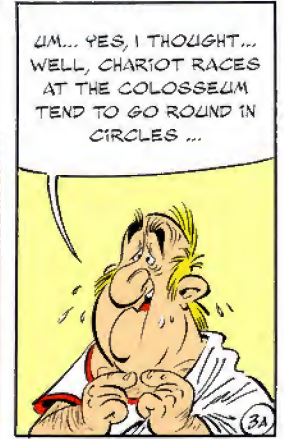
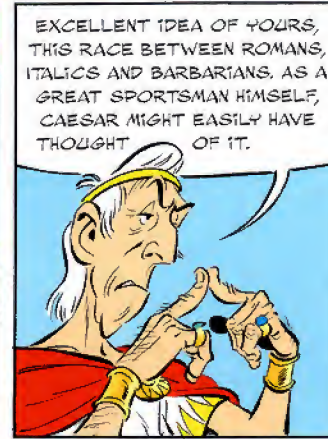
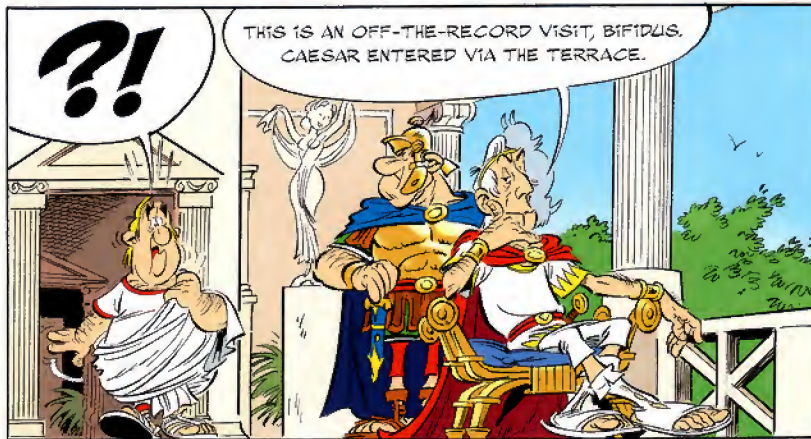
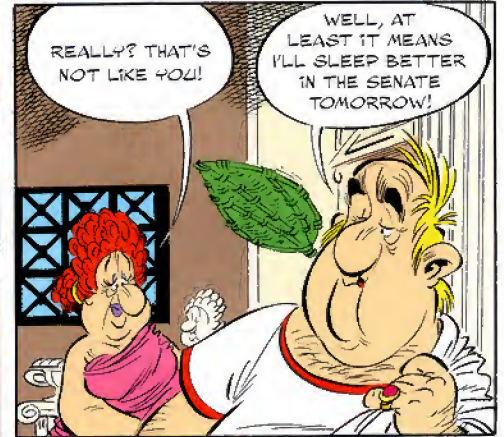
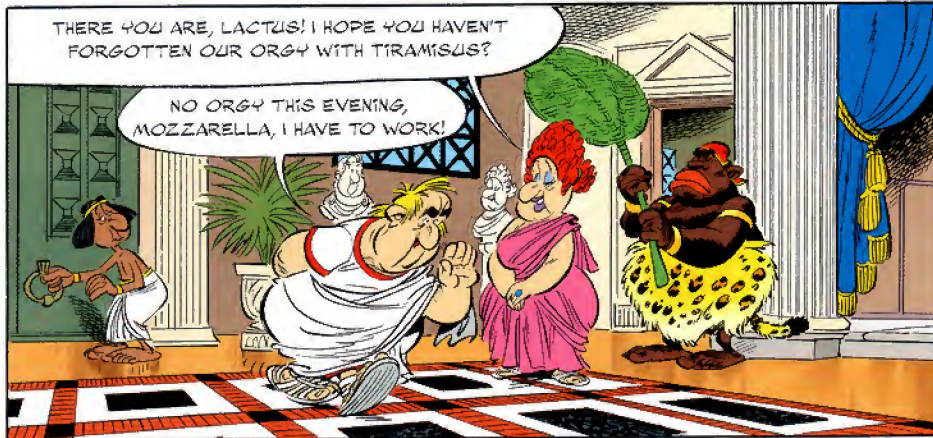


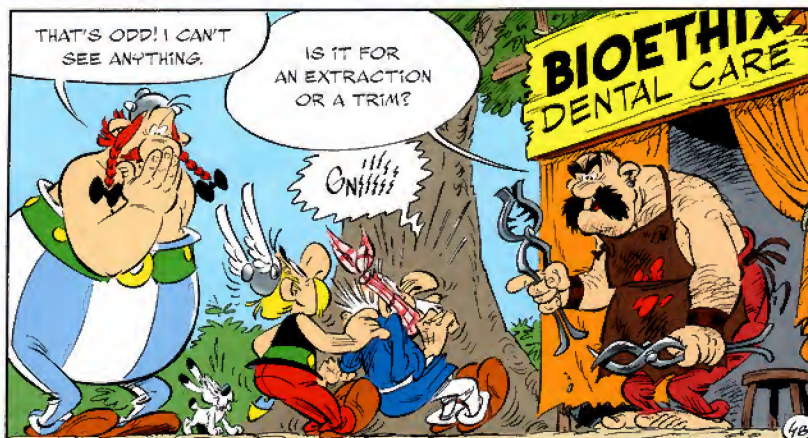
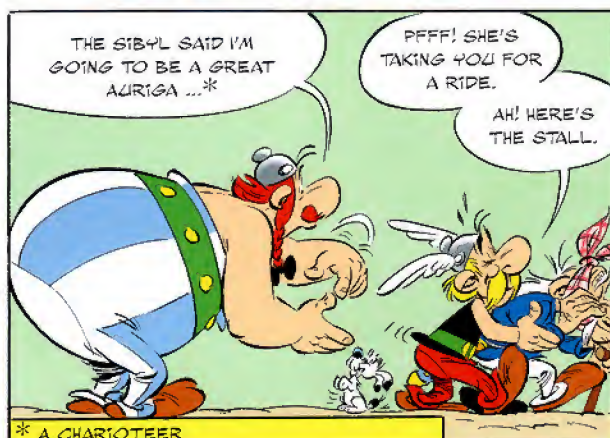
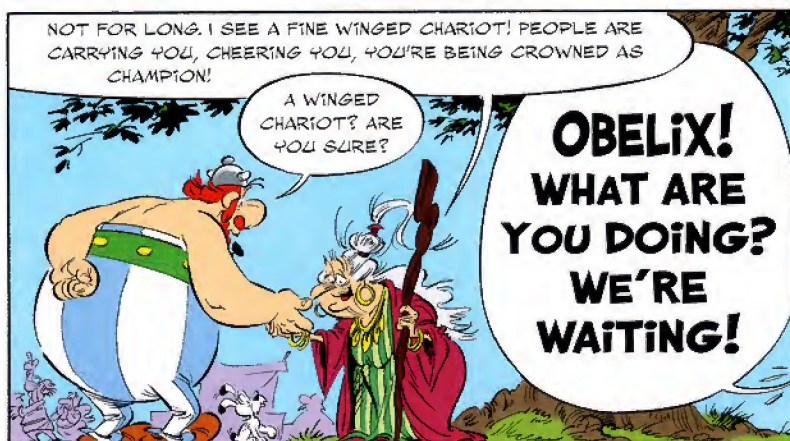
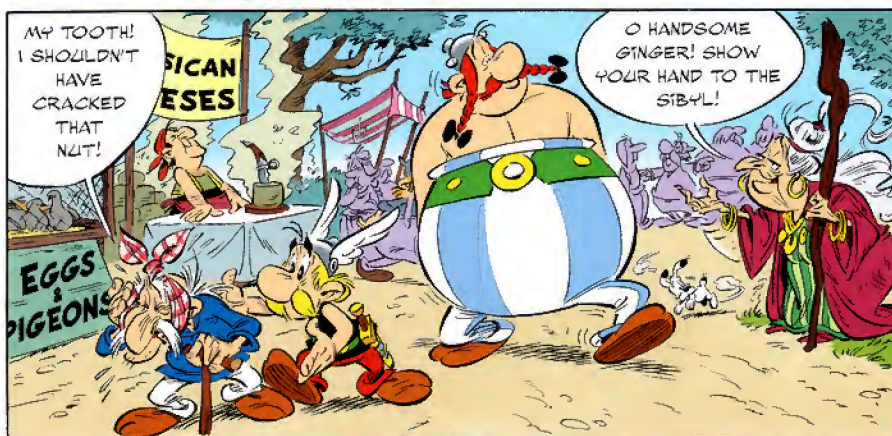
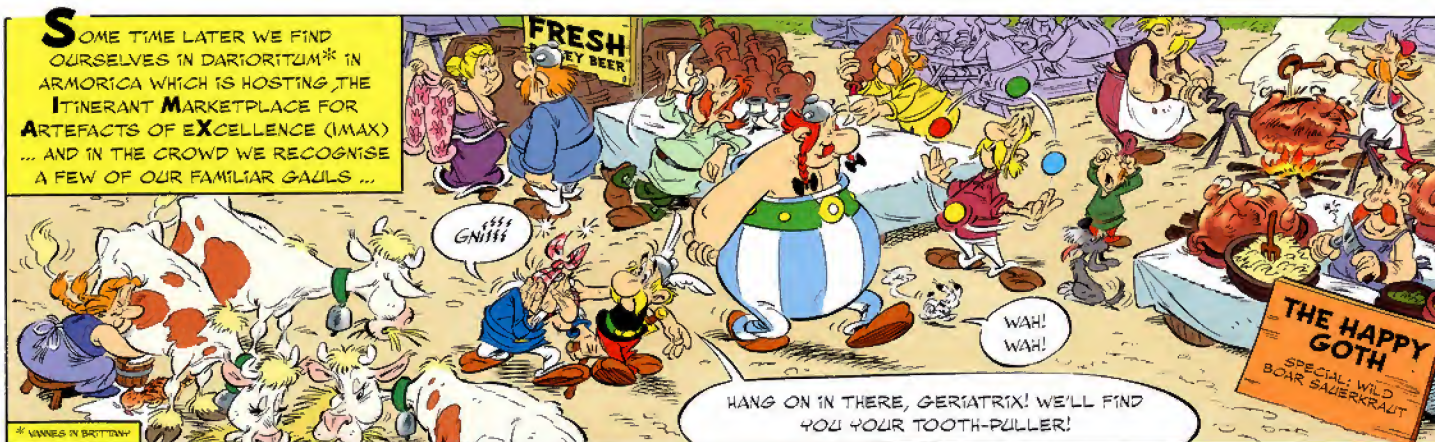
I HAVE A DREAM THAT PUBLIC FUNDS SHALL GO TOWARDS
MAINTAINING OUR ROMAN ROADS AND NOT INTO FUNDING
SENATOR LACTUS BIFIDUS'S ORGIES.



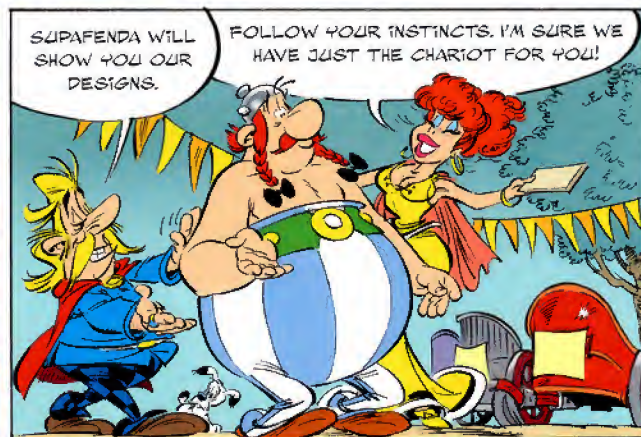
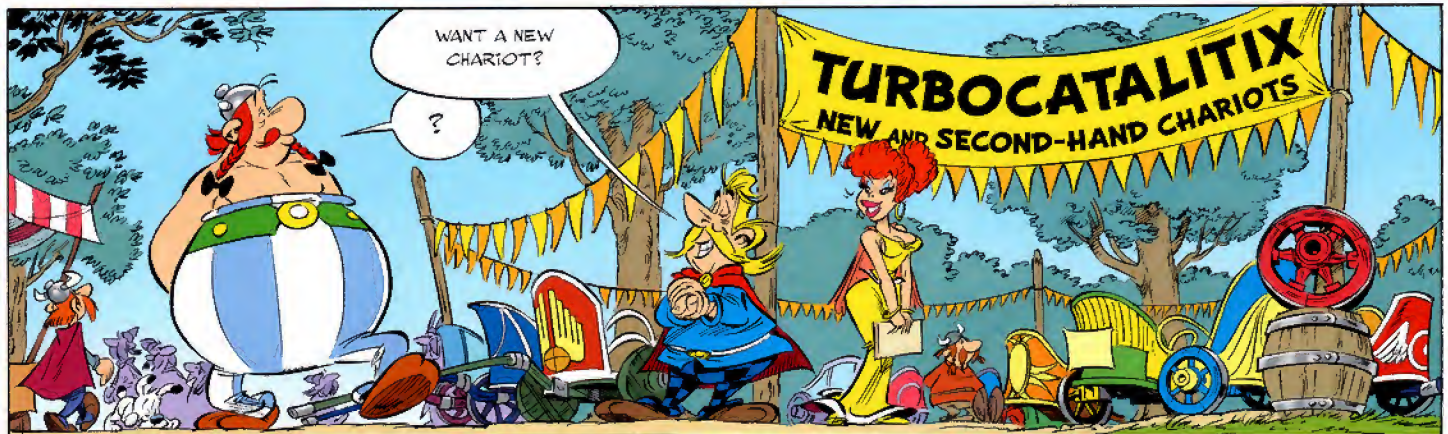
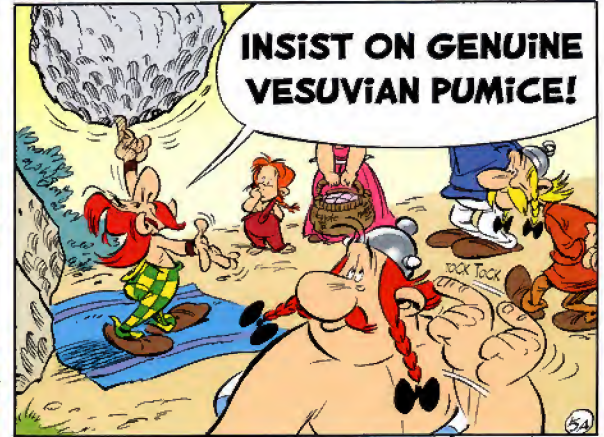
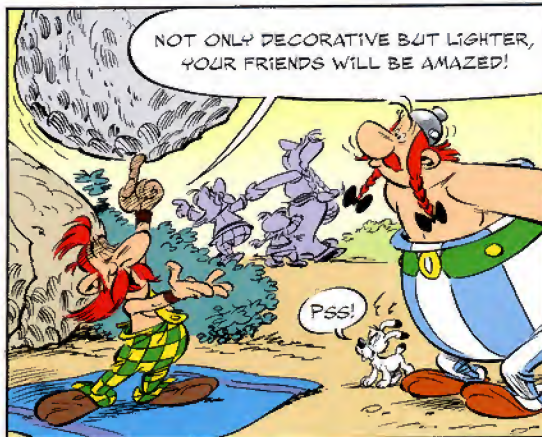
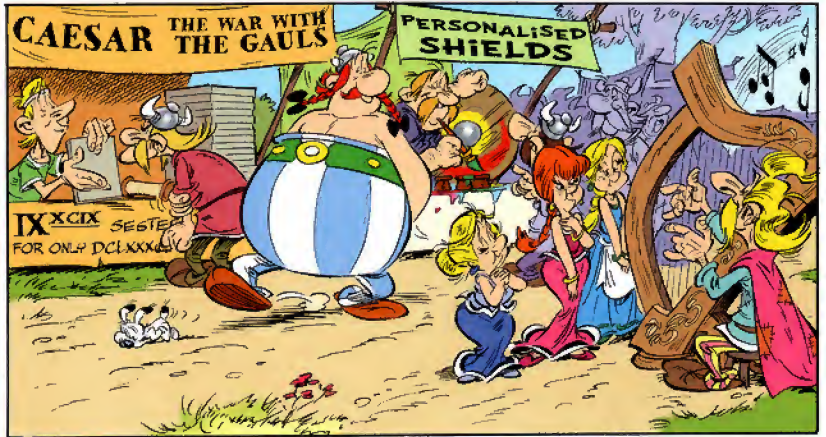
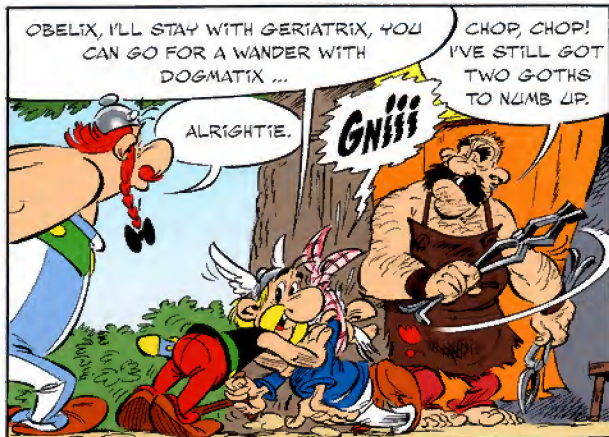
PSSST, BIFIDUS!
WAKE UP, THIS IS
ABOUT YOU!

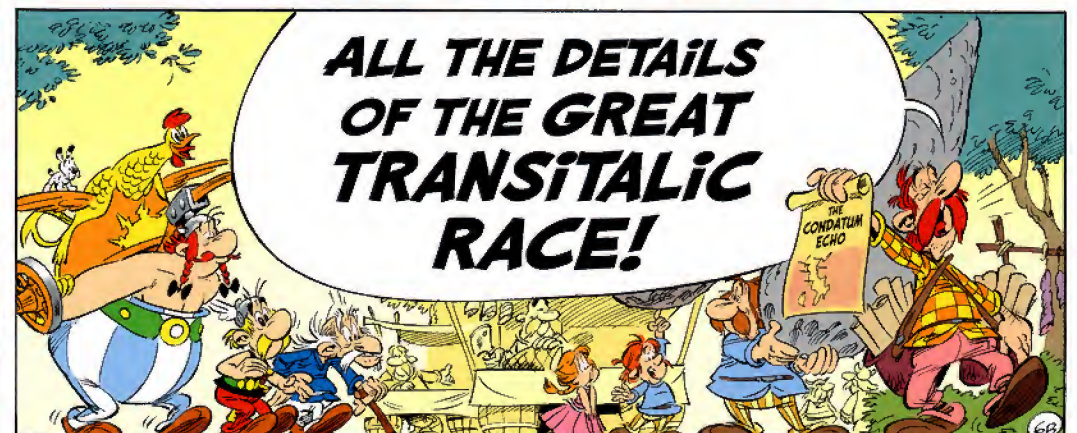
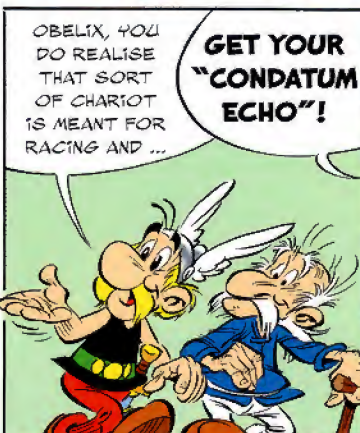
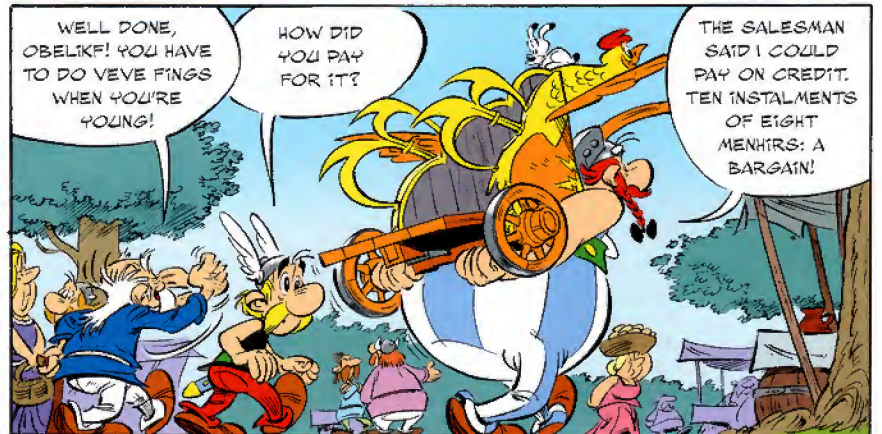
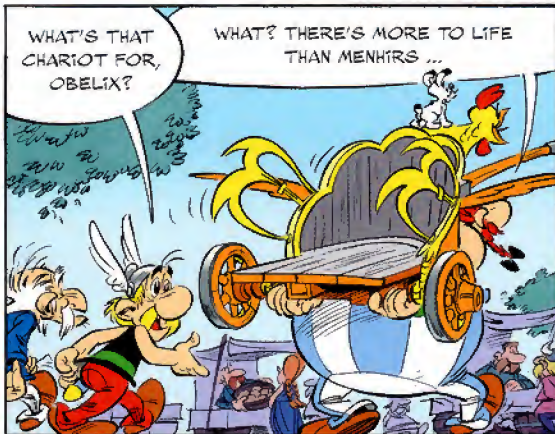
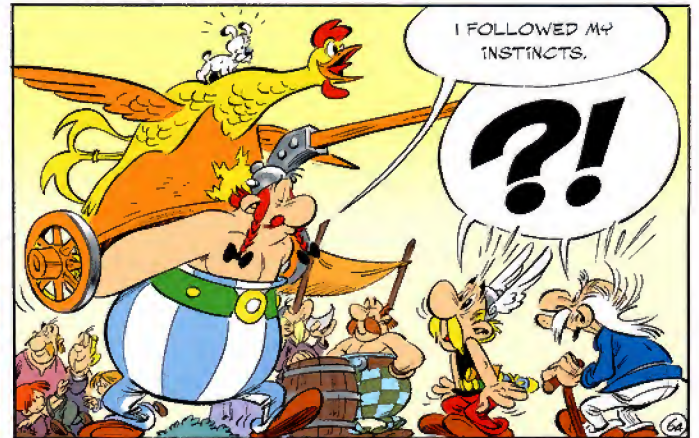
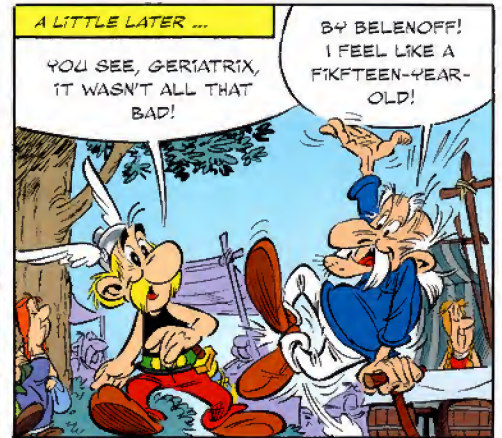






* A CHARIOTEER







MODICIA

I

PARMA

II

PISAE
FLORENTIA

SENA JVLIA

III

TIBVR
ROMA

IV

NEAPOLIS

V

VENEXIA

FIRST

MODICIA-NEAPOLIS
TRANSiTALIC
RACE

VESVIVS
MONS

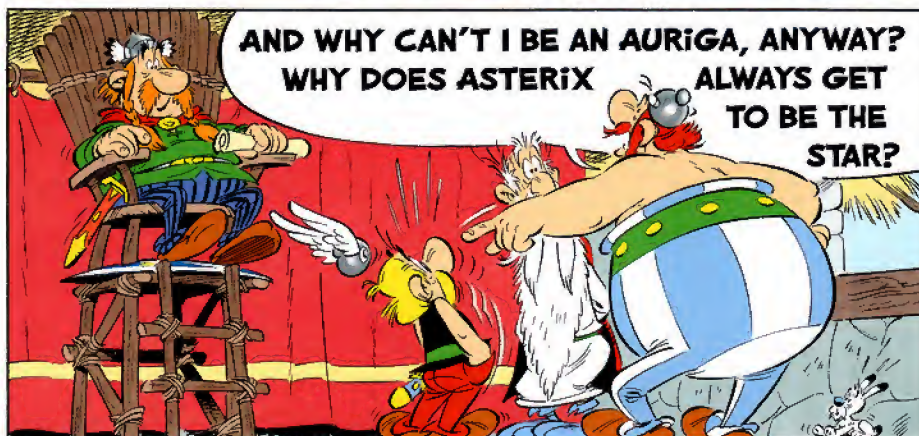
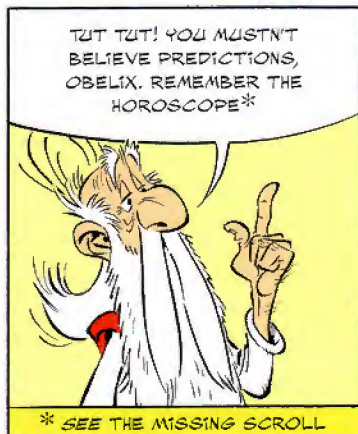
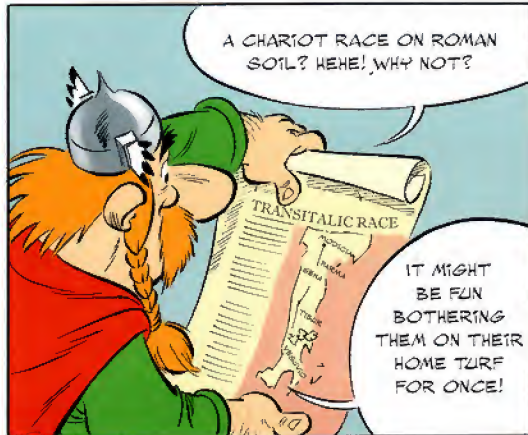
OPEN TO
AVRIGAE
FROM ALL OVER
THE KNOWN WORLD
(INCLVDING BARBARIANS)

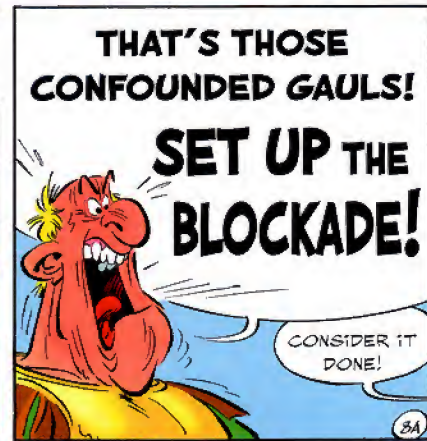
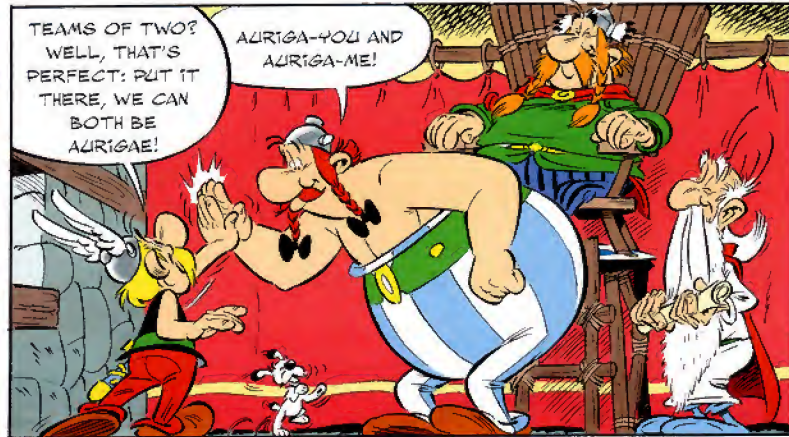
A CVP FOR THE WINNERS
(OR ITS EQVIVALENT IN SESTERCES)
MANY CONSOLATION SLAVES

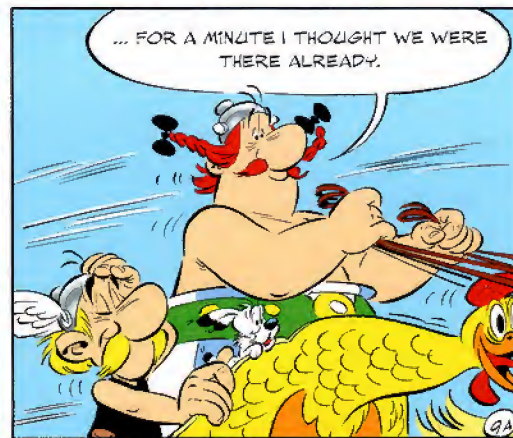
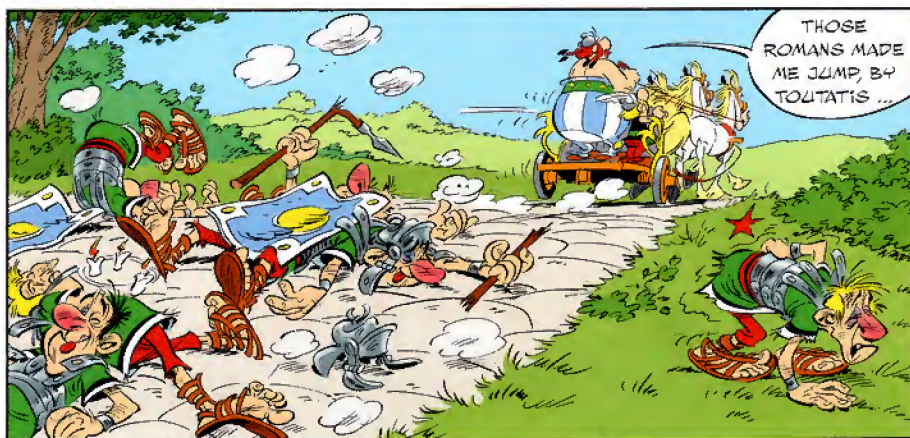
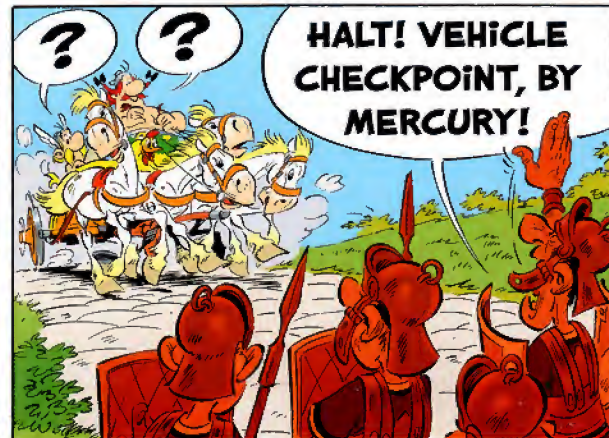
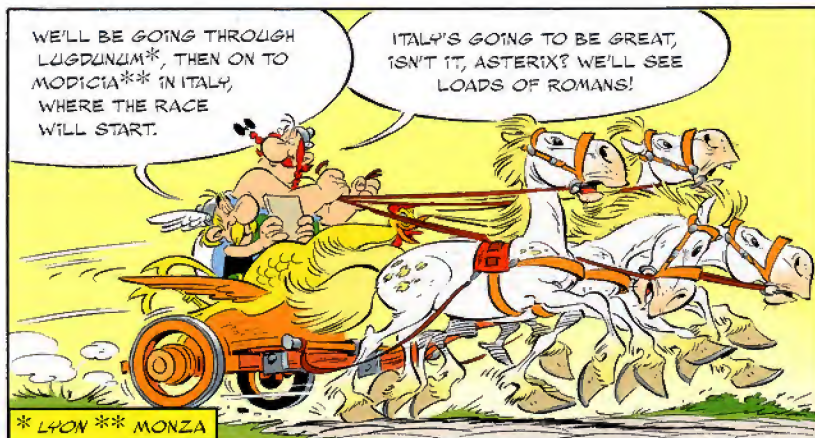
ITINERARY SVPLIED BY
GARVM LVPVS
THE CONDIMENT OF CHAMPIONS

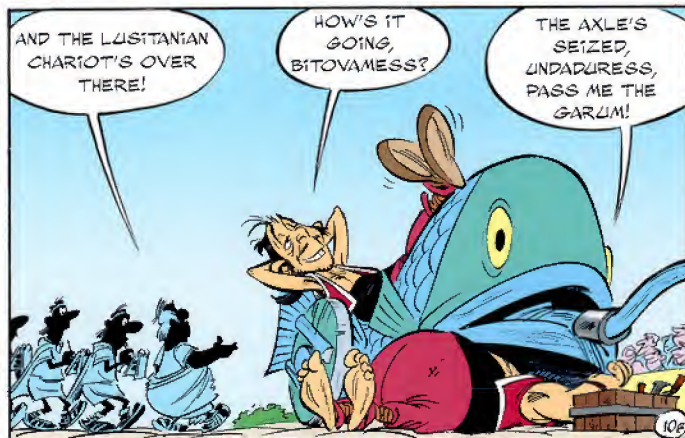
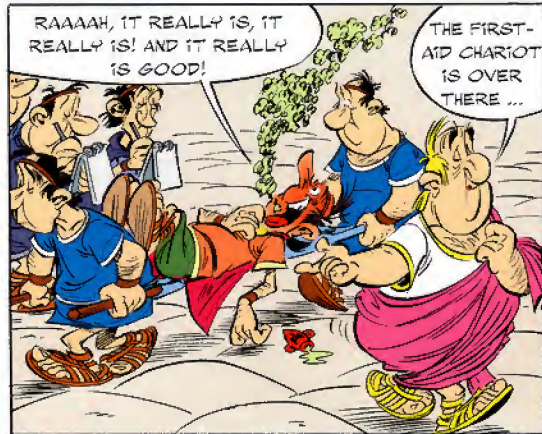
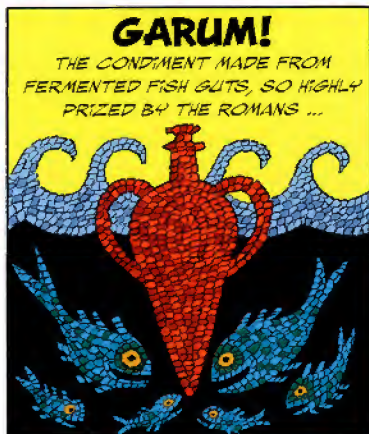
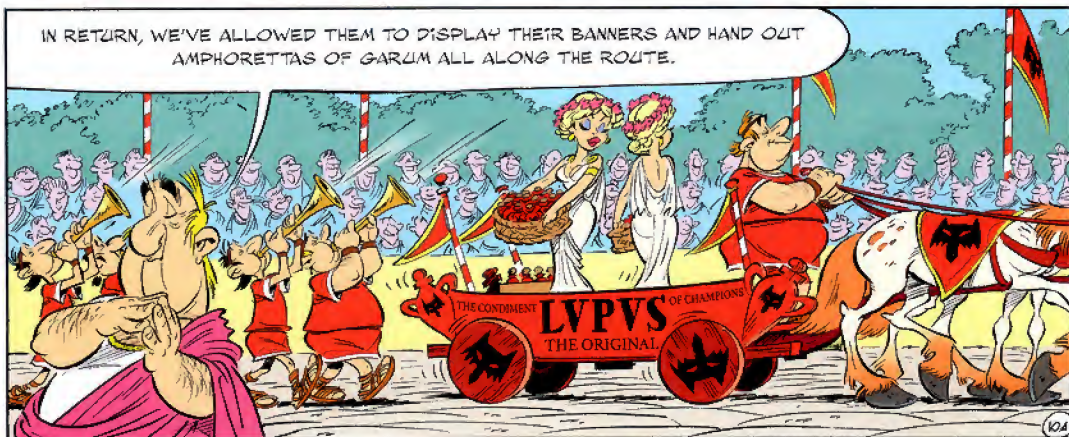
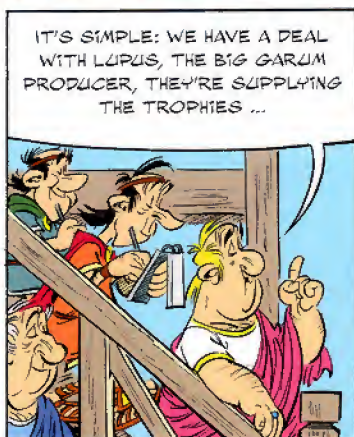
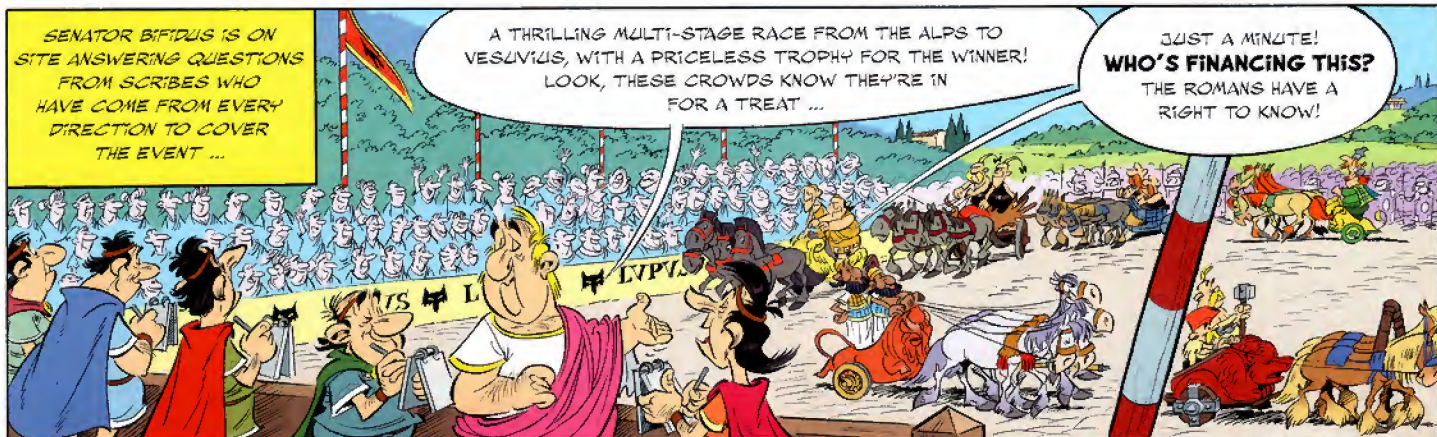


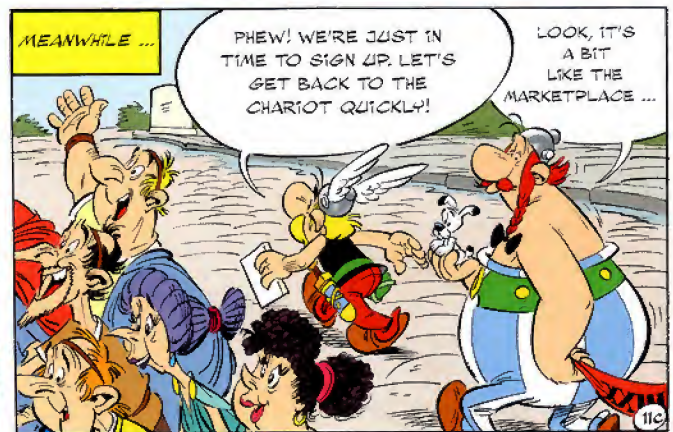
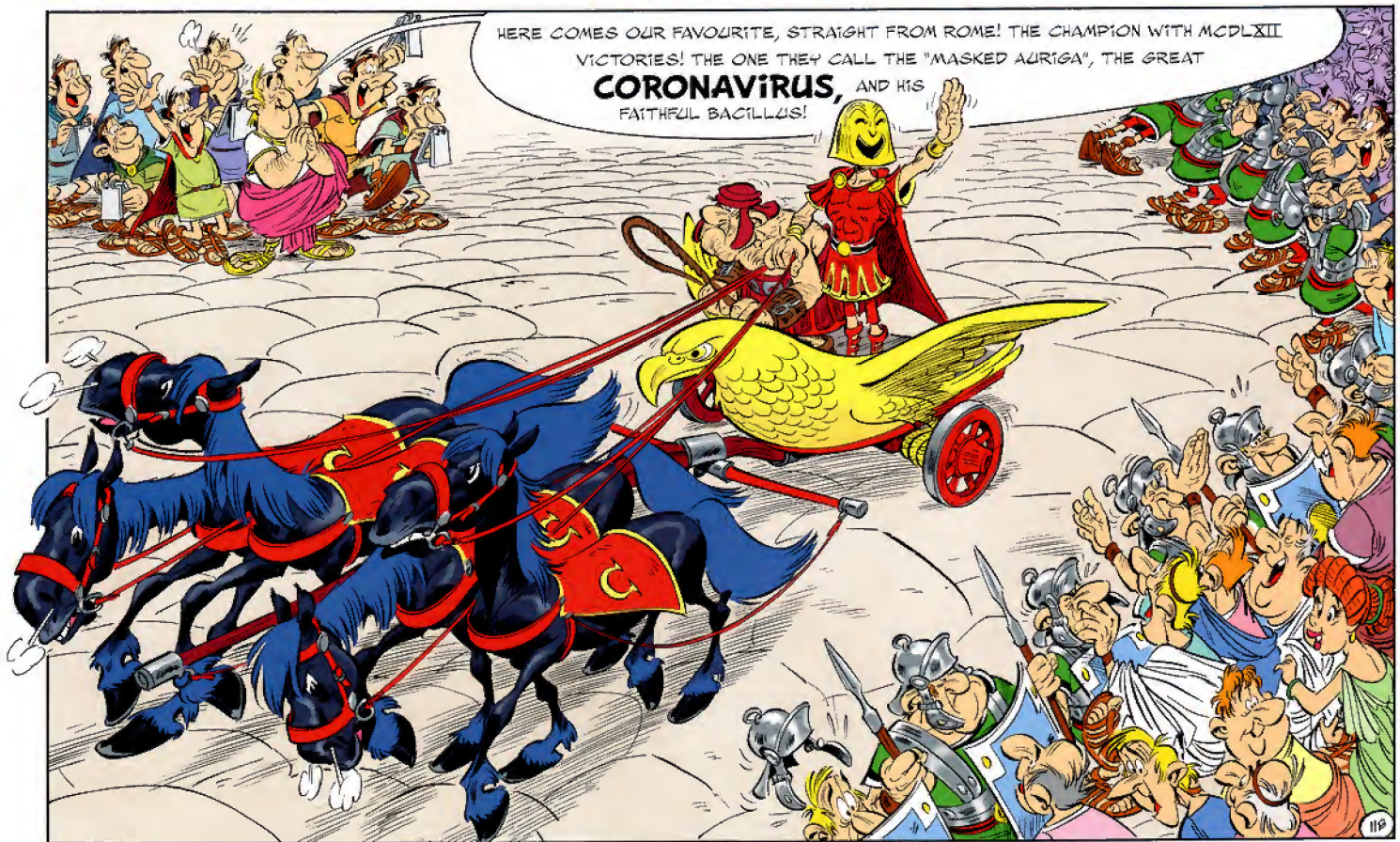
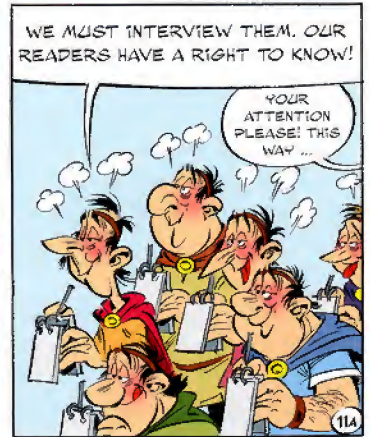
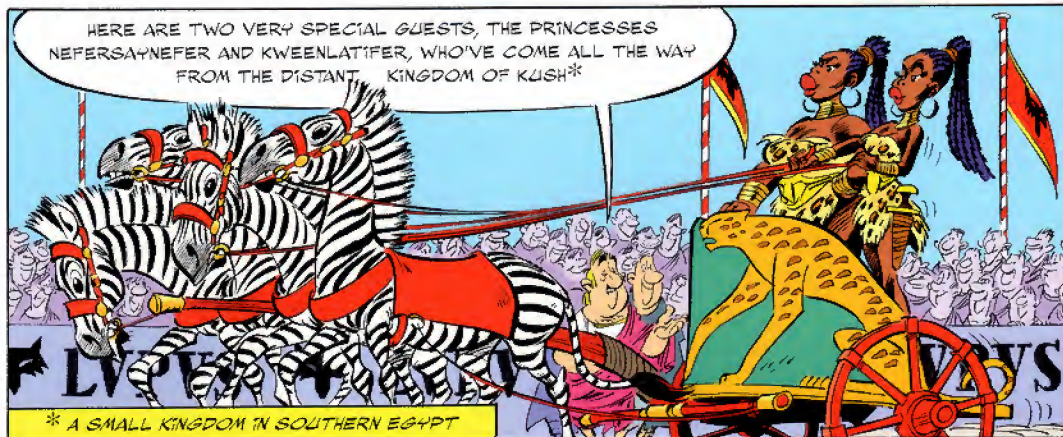
HELMETS MVST
BE WORN











IN THE NAME OF JULIUS CAESAR AND WITH
 GENEROUS SPONSORSHIP FROM LUPUS
 GARUM, I, BIFIDUS, PRONOUNCE ... UM ...

"THE GREAT
 TRANSITALIC
 RACE
 OPEN."

... PRONOUNCE THE
 GREAT TRANSITALIC
 RACE OPEN!

LVPVS

THE CONDIMENT
 OF CHAMPIONS

CORONAVIRUS CORONAVIRUS CORONAVIRUS

LOOKS LIKE IT'S
 ALL ABOUT THAT
 ROMAN!

WELL, WHAT DO
 YOU EXPECT?

HE'S GOT A NICE
 SMILE.

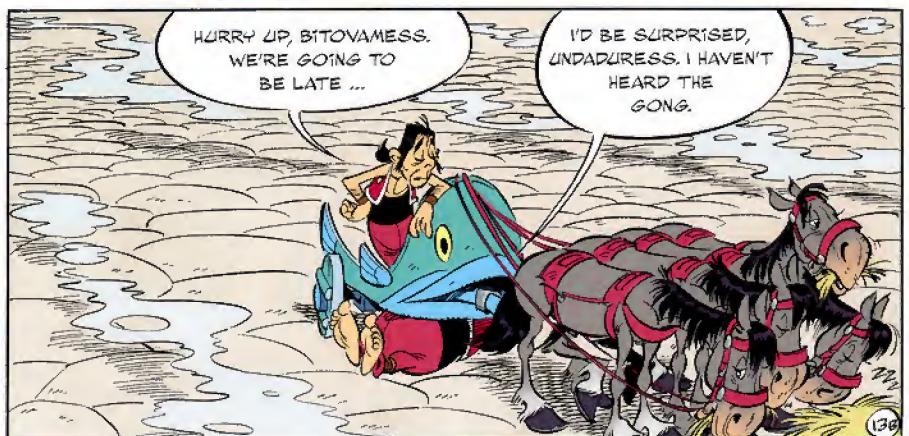
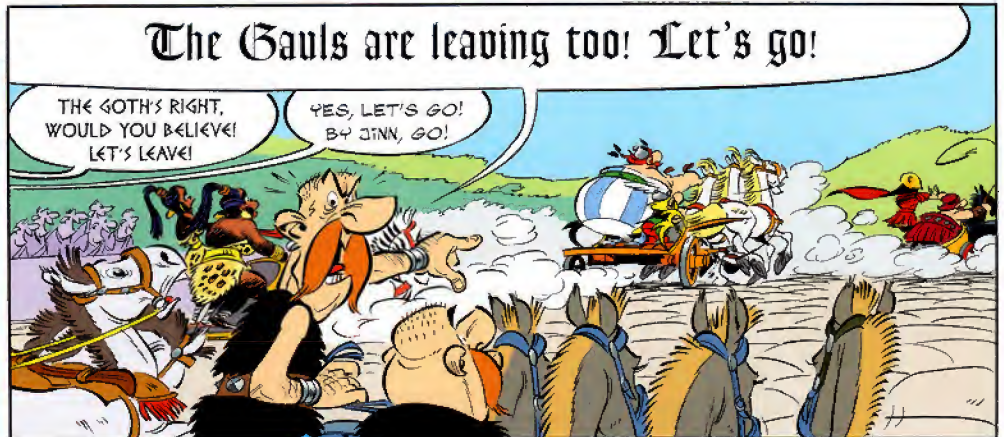
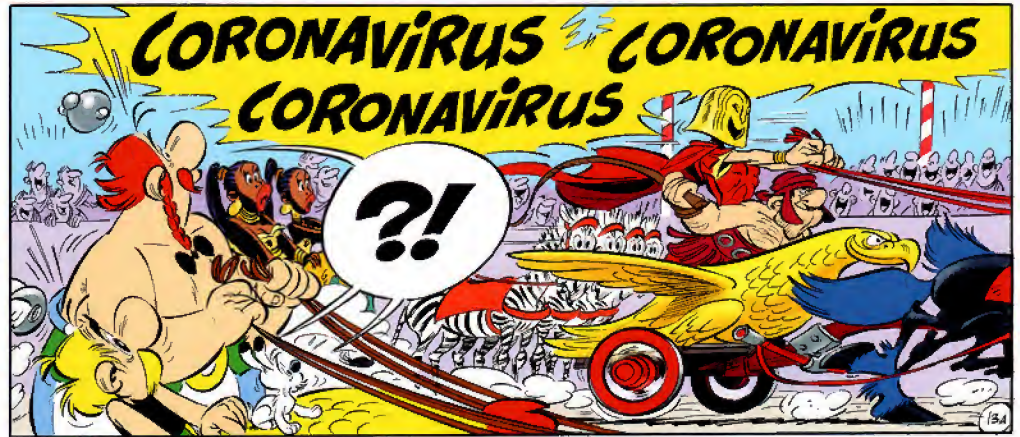
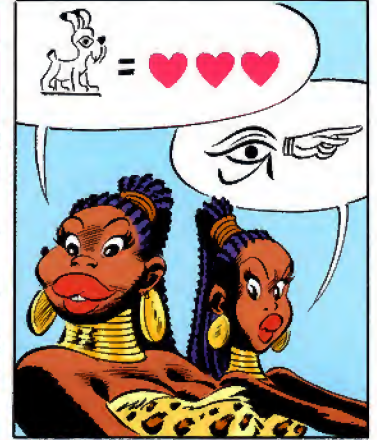
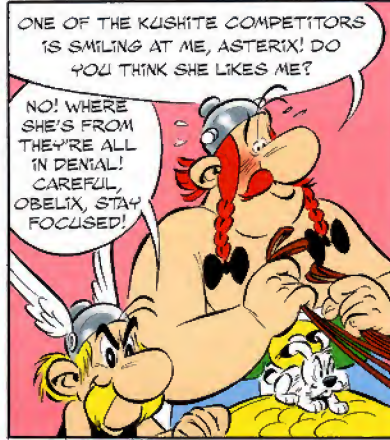
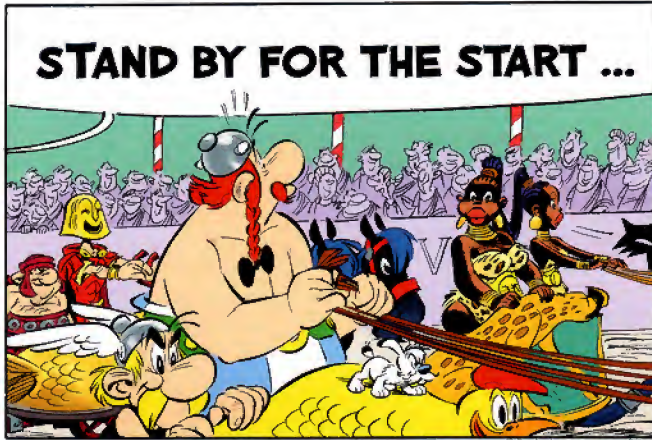
IT'S A
 MASK,
 OBELIX!

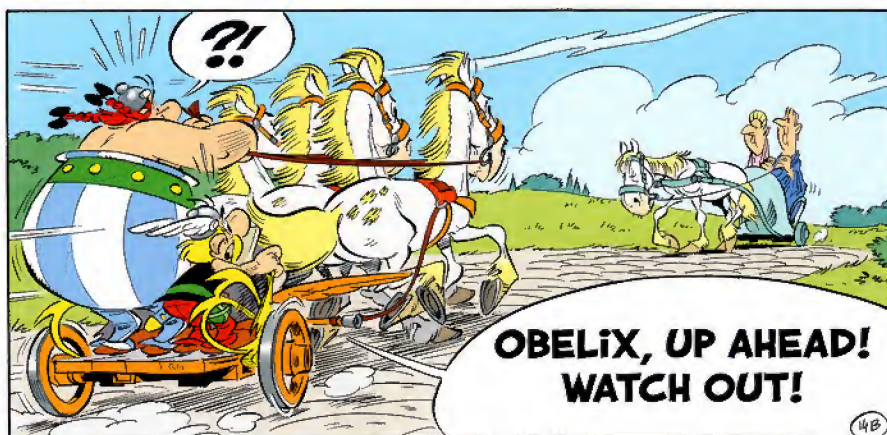
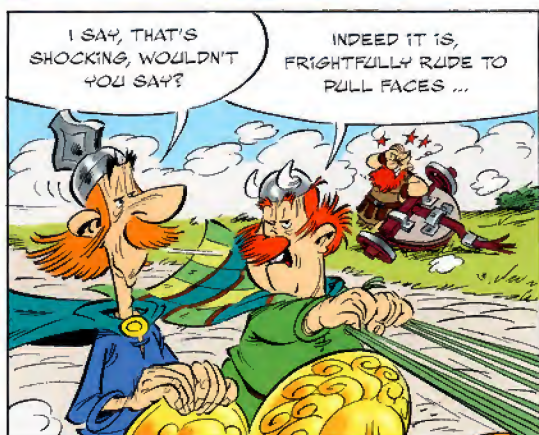
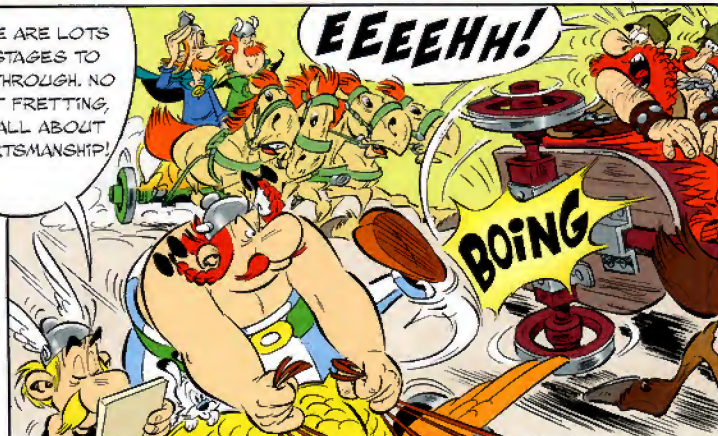
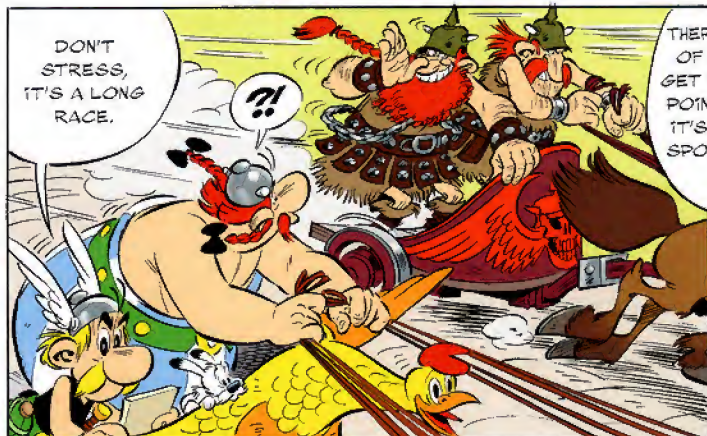
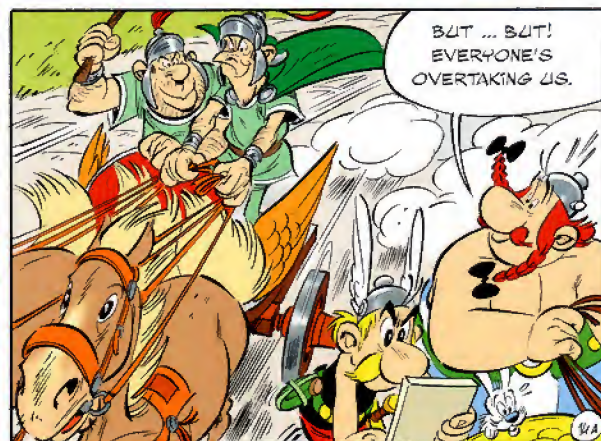
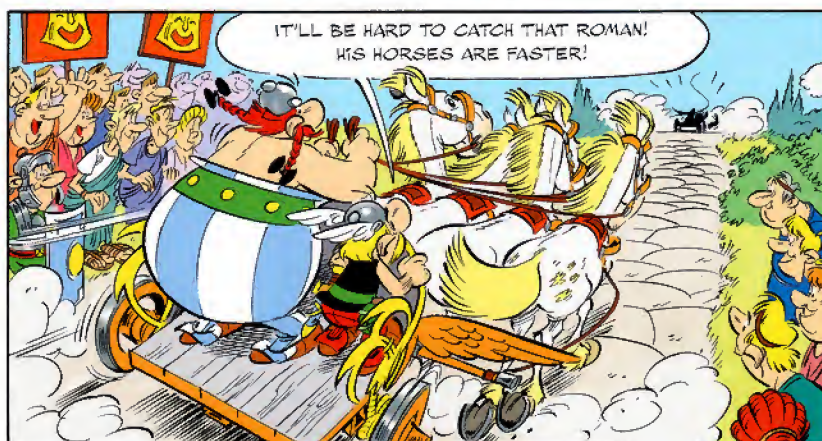
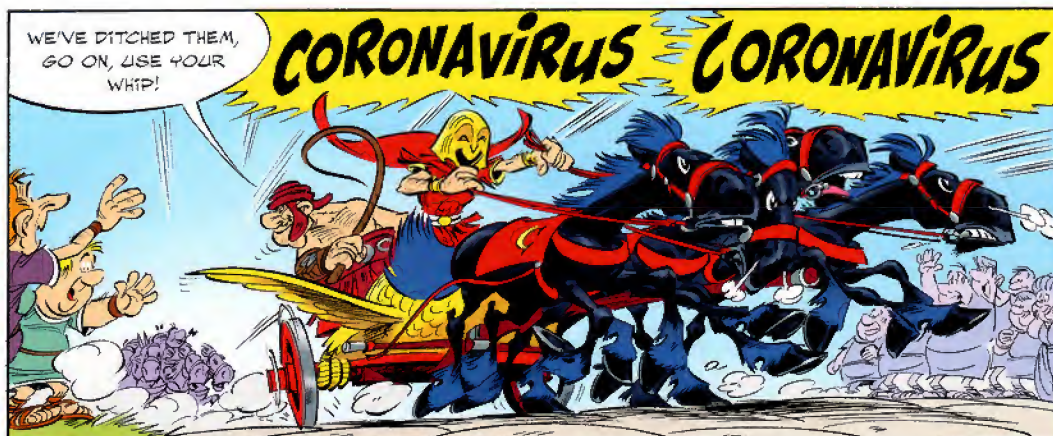
THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE
 THE TRANSITALIC CUP, A
 SYMBOL OF OUR GLORIOUS,
 FAR-REACHING
 ROMAN ROADS ...

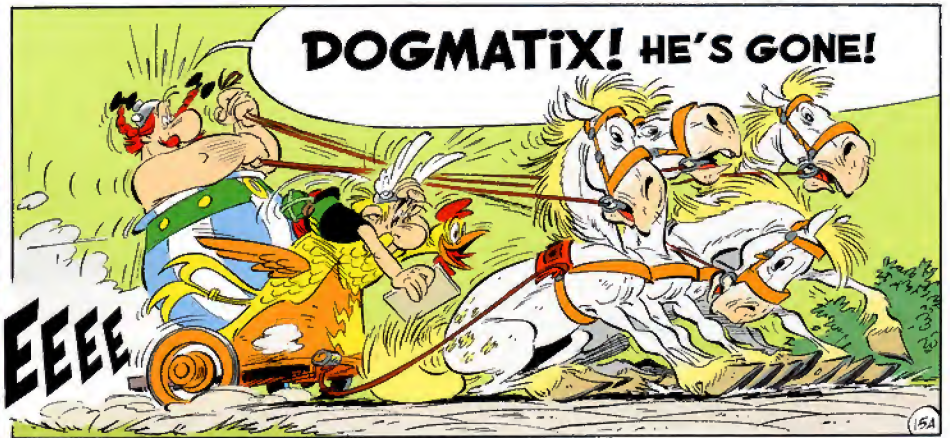
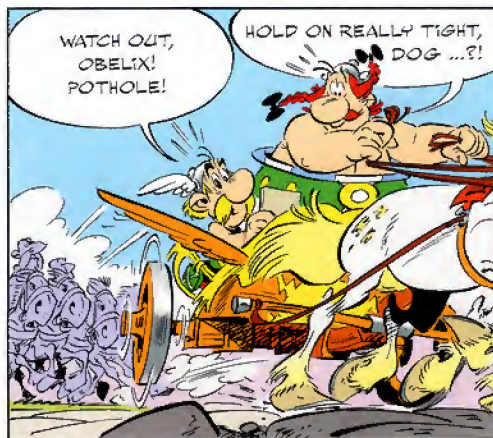
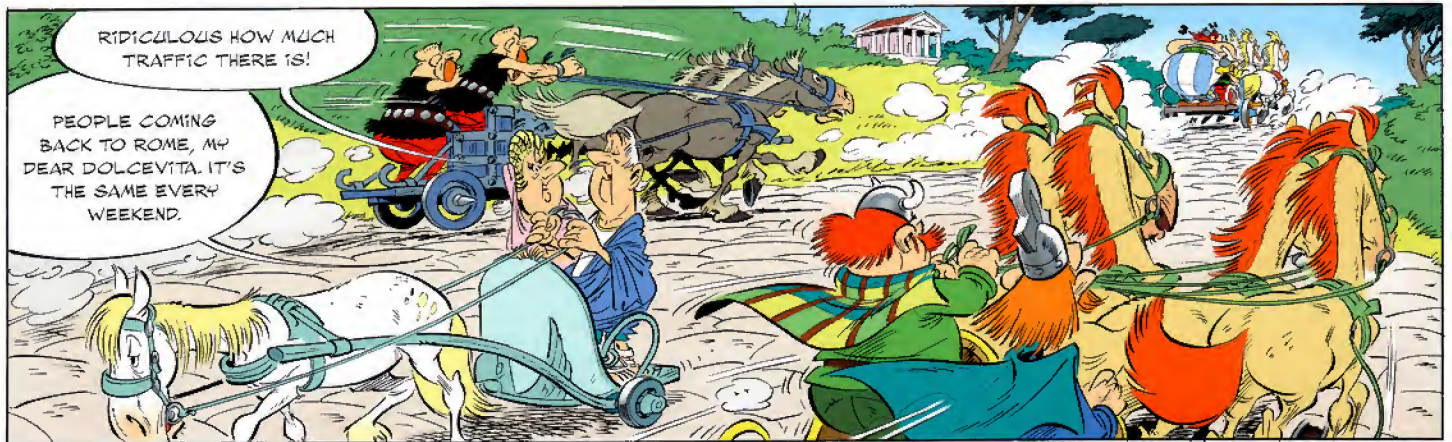
"... OR ITS
 EQUIVALENT
 IN SESTER
 ..."

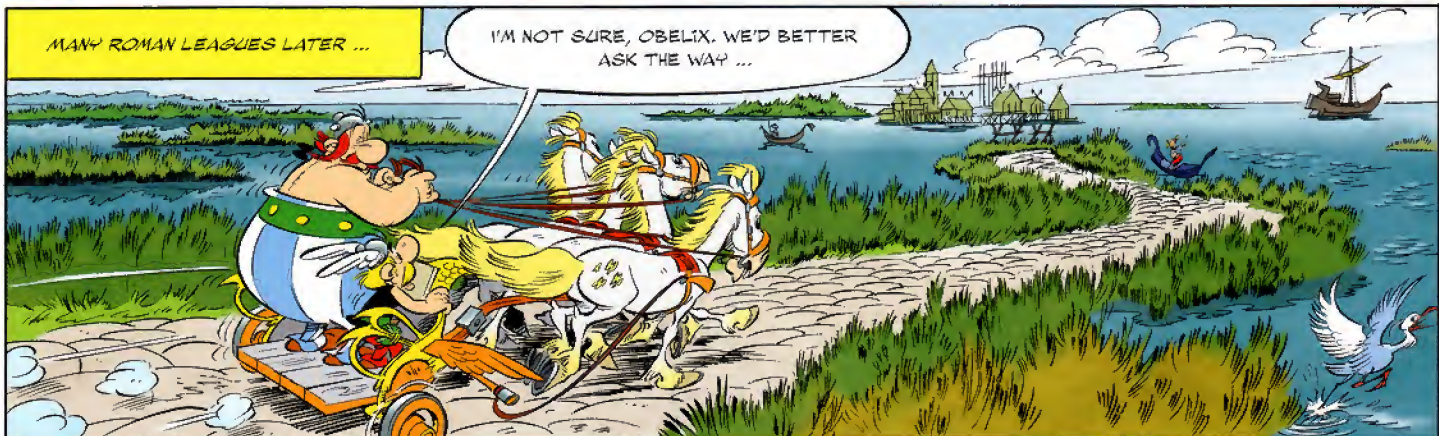
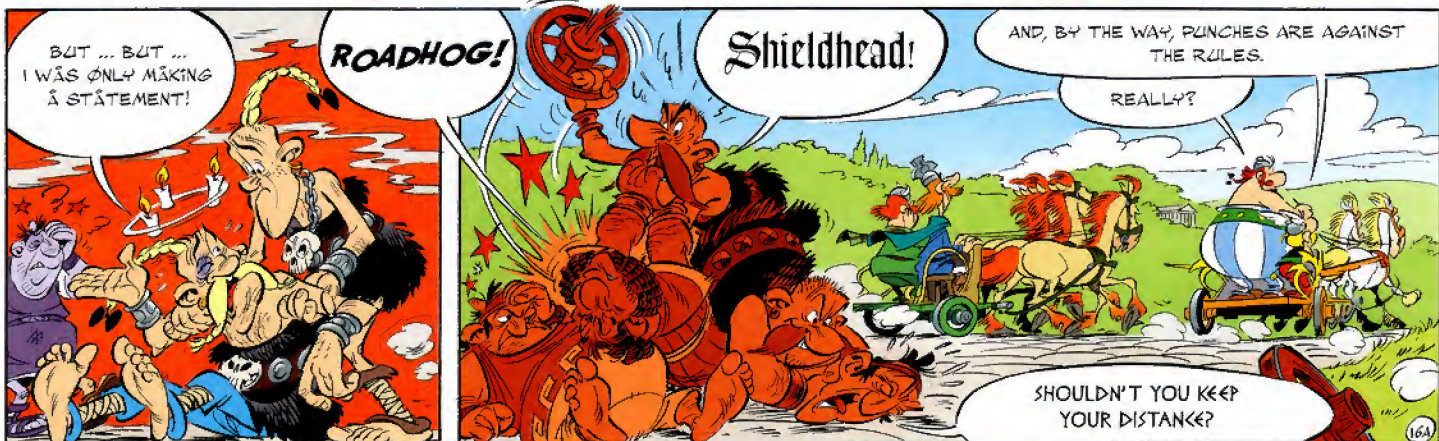
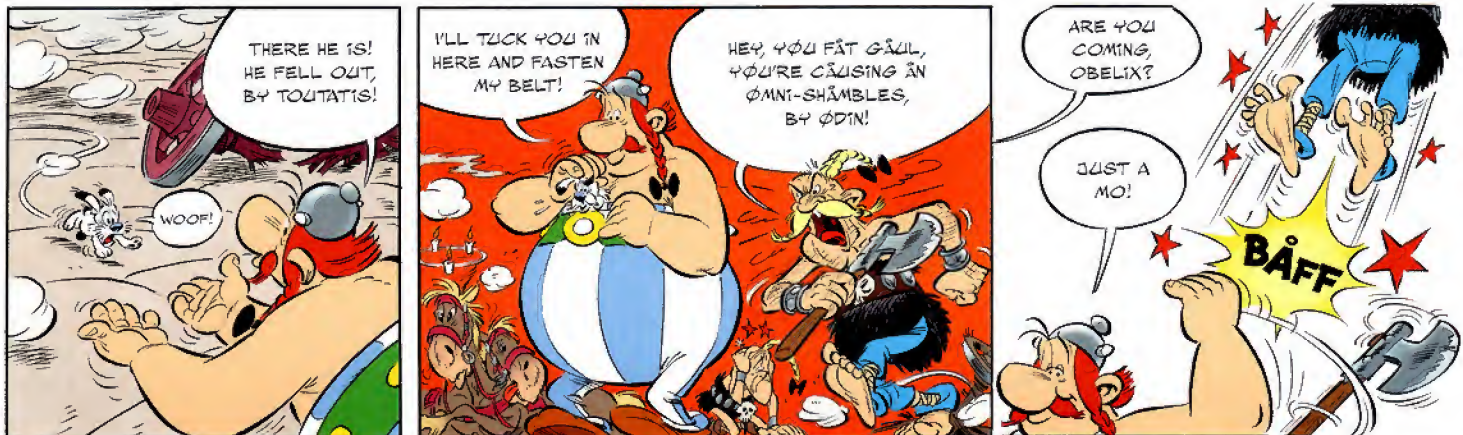
... OR ITS
 EQUIVALENT IN
 SESTERCES!!!

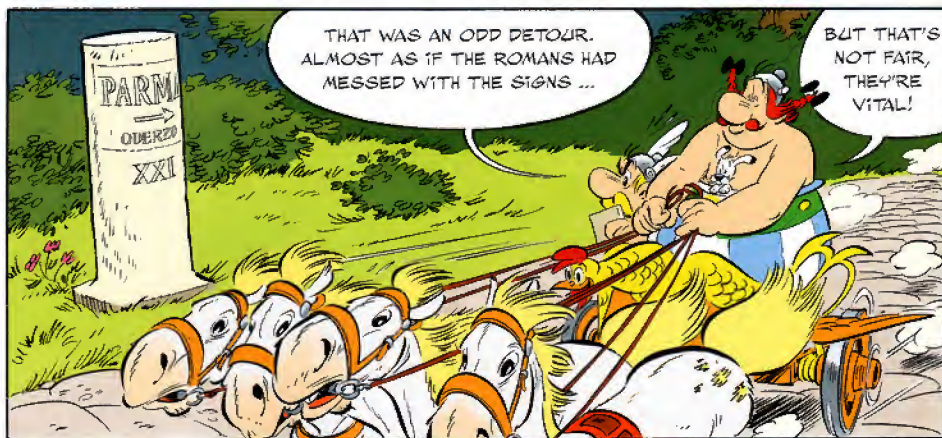
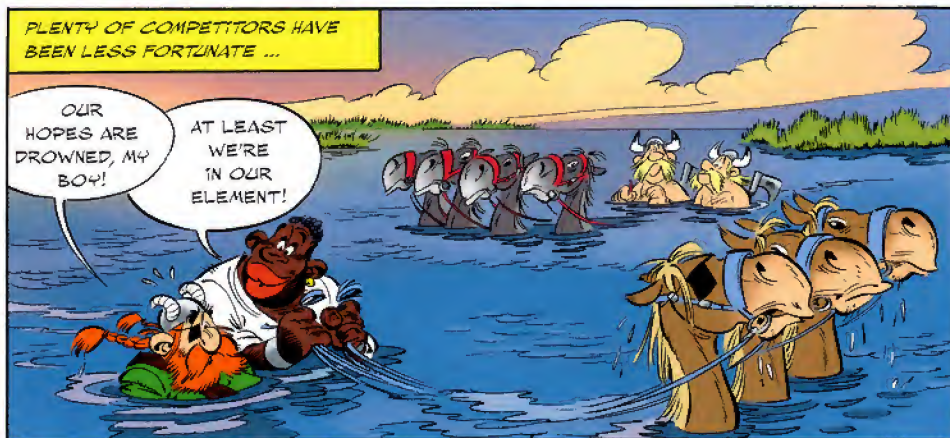
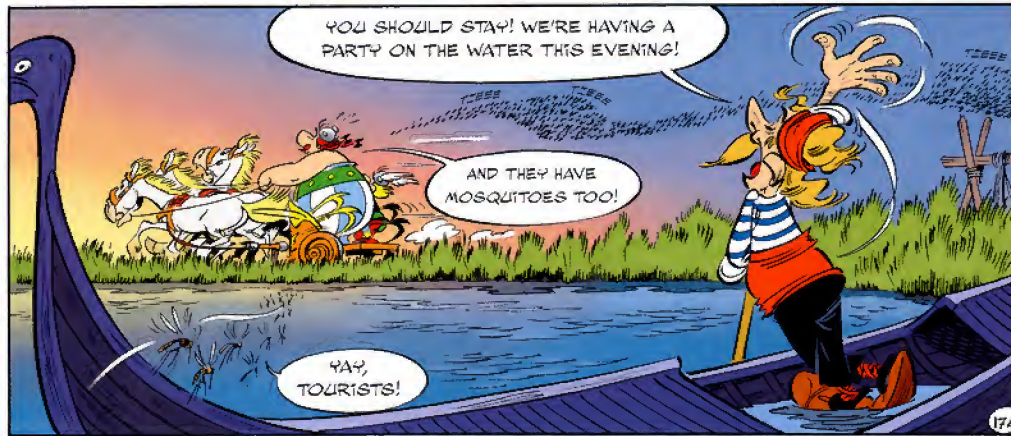
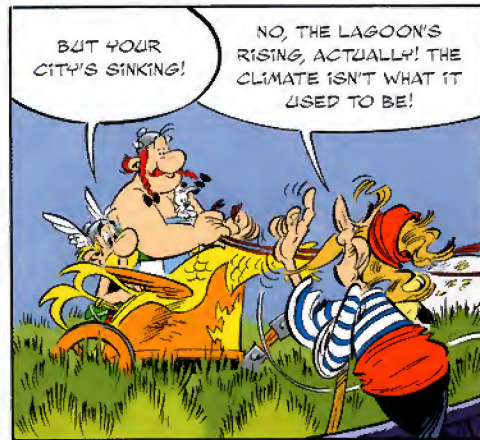
HEHE! WE'RE HERE
 FOR THE EQUIVALENT,
 MY BOY!

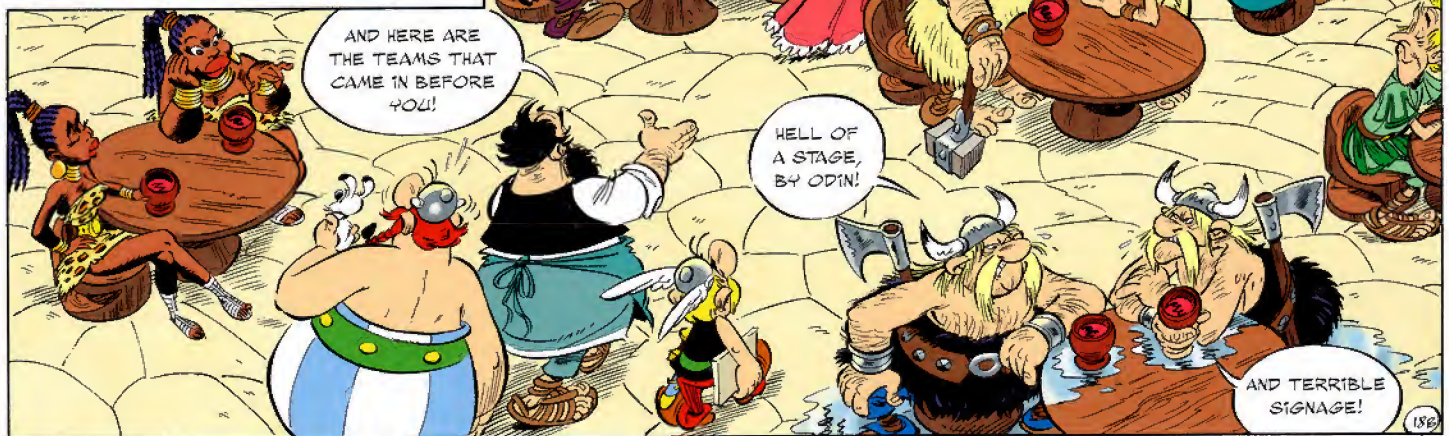
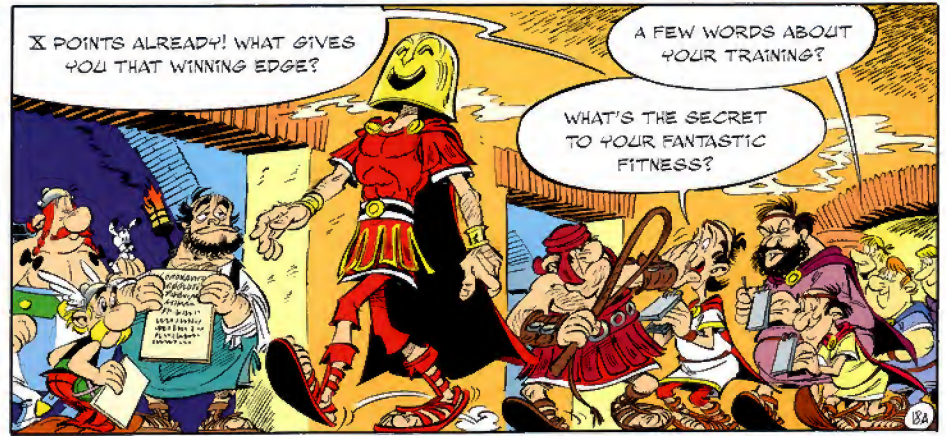


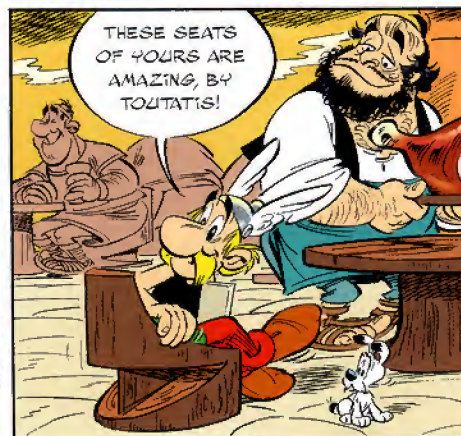
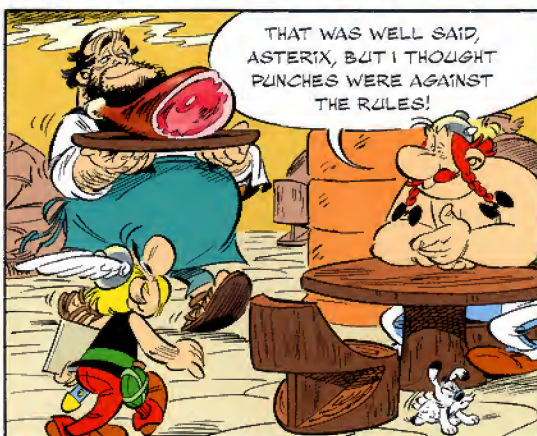
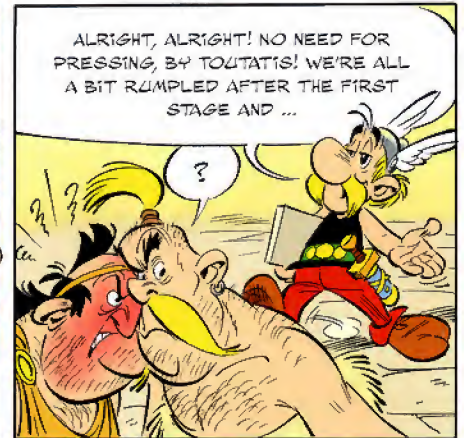
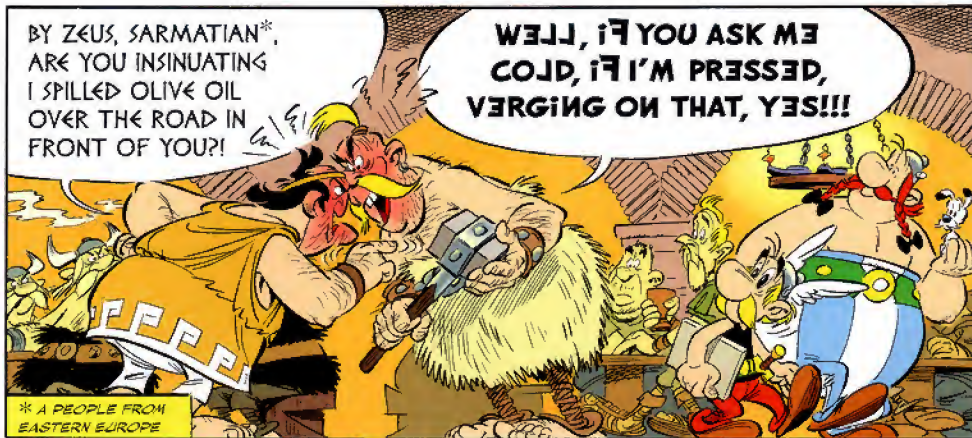


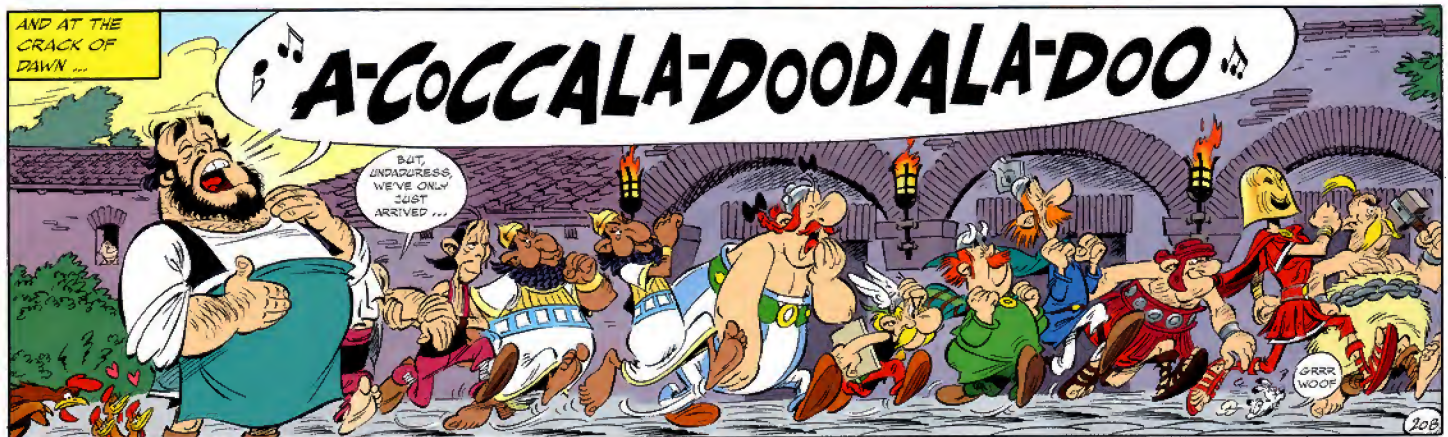
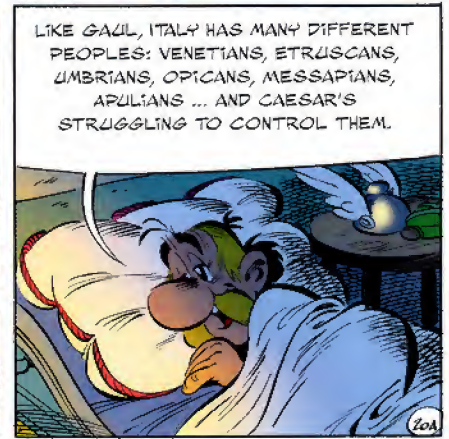
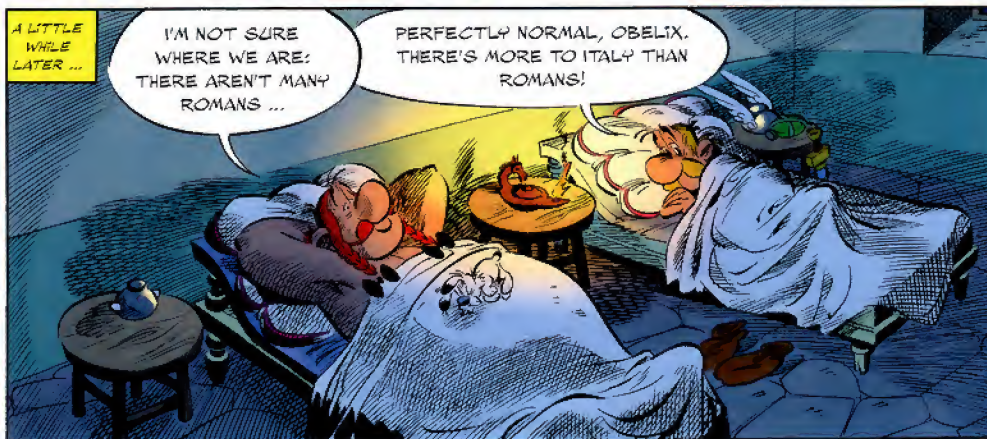
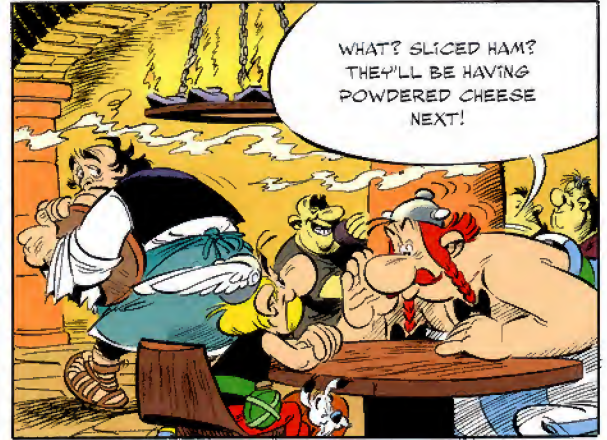
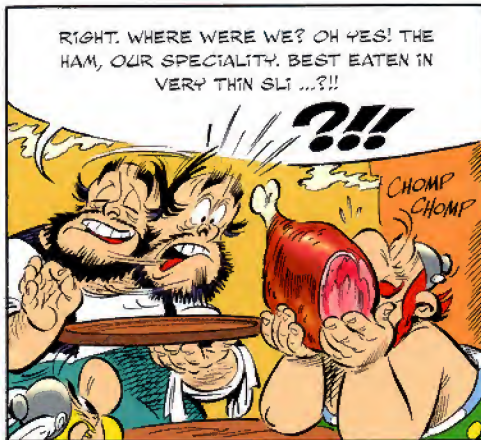


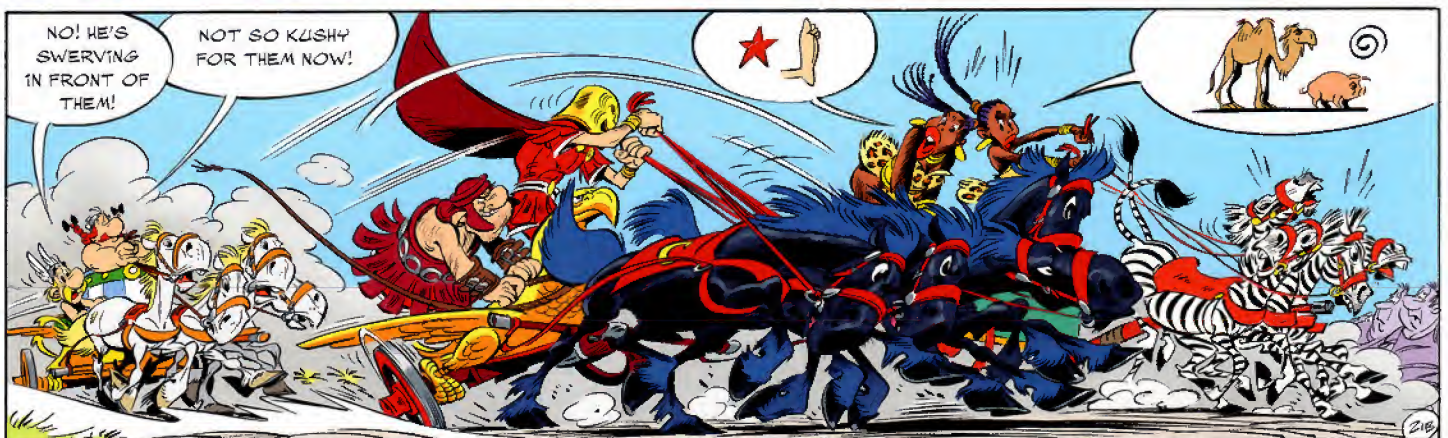
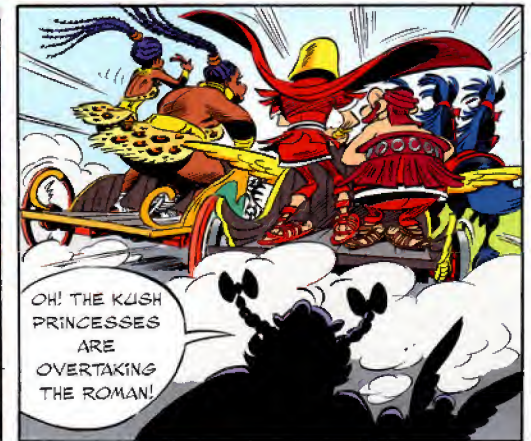
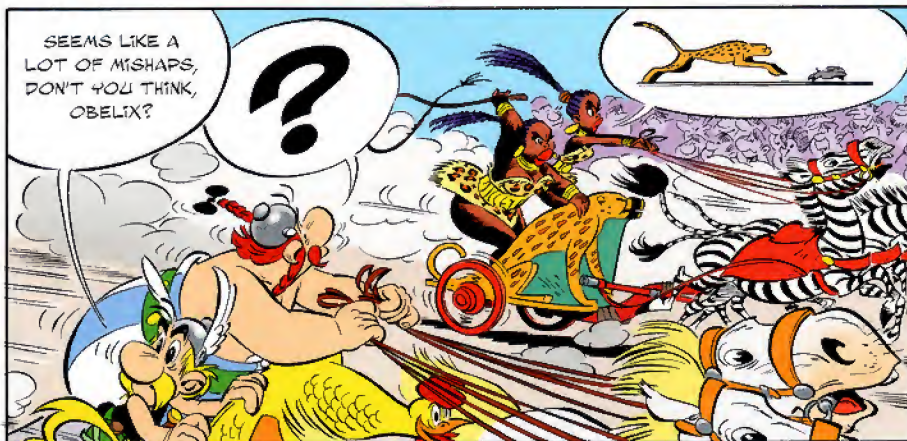
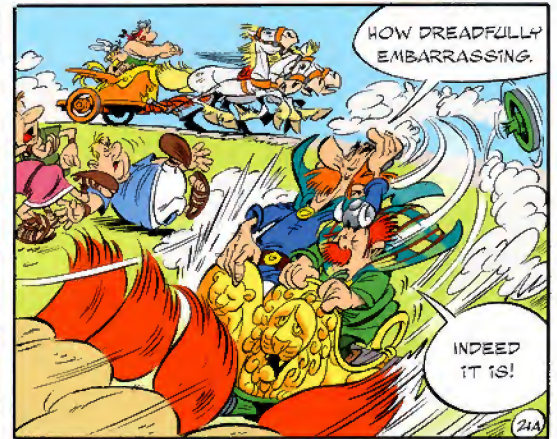
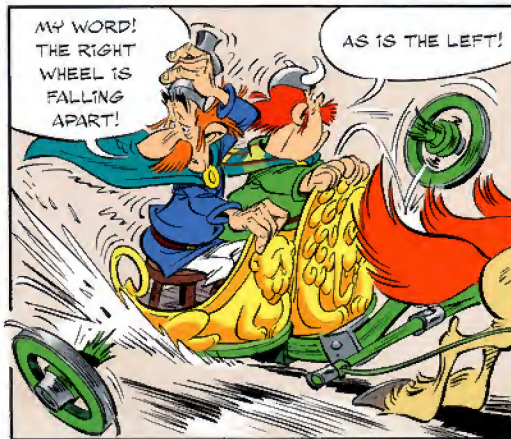
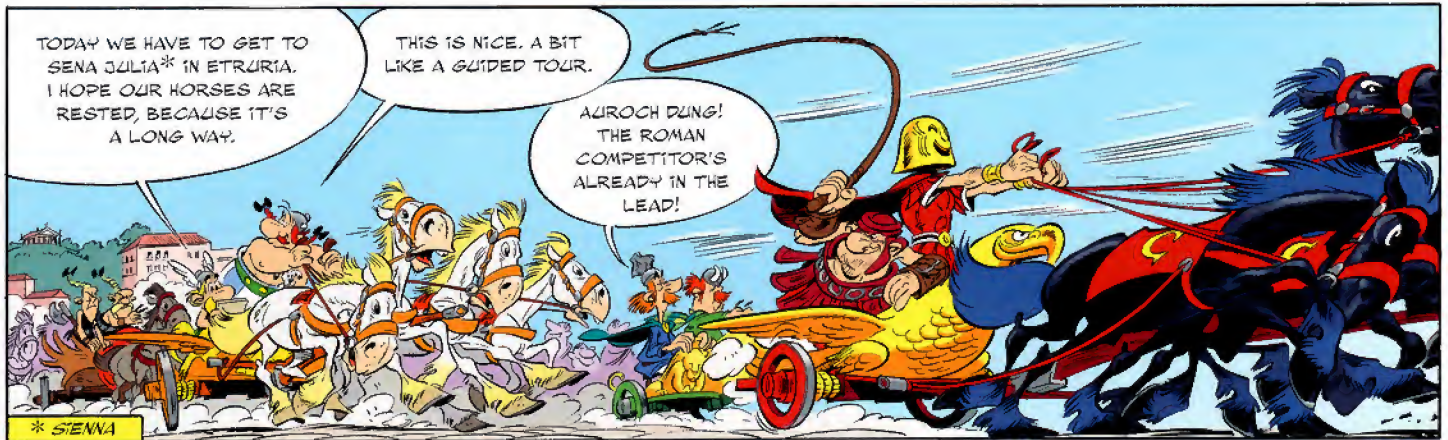


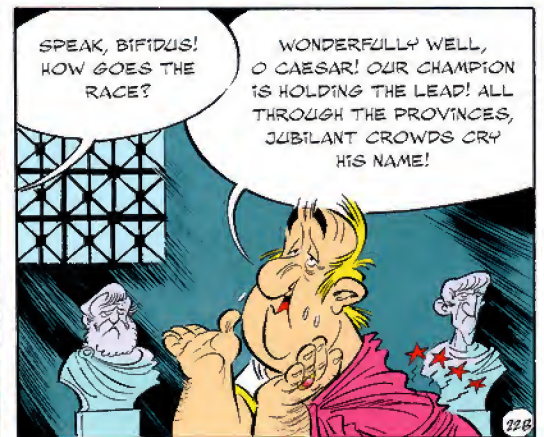
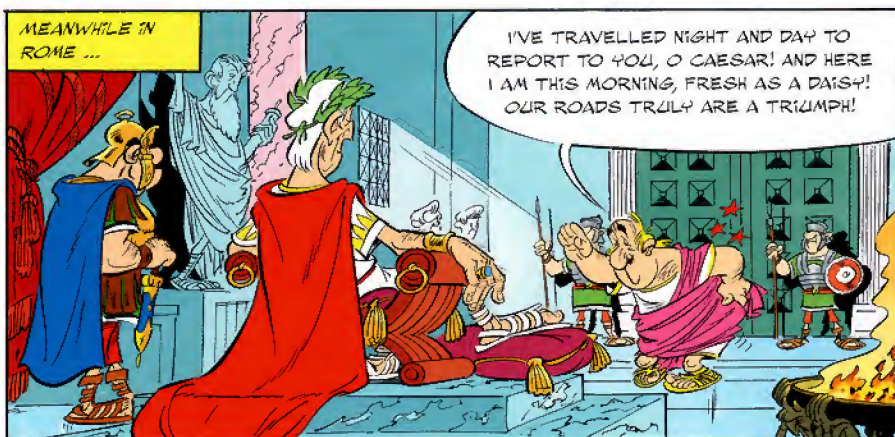
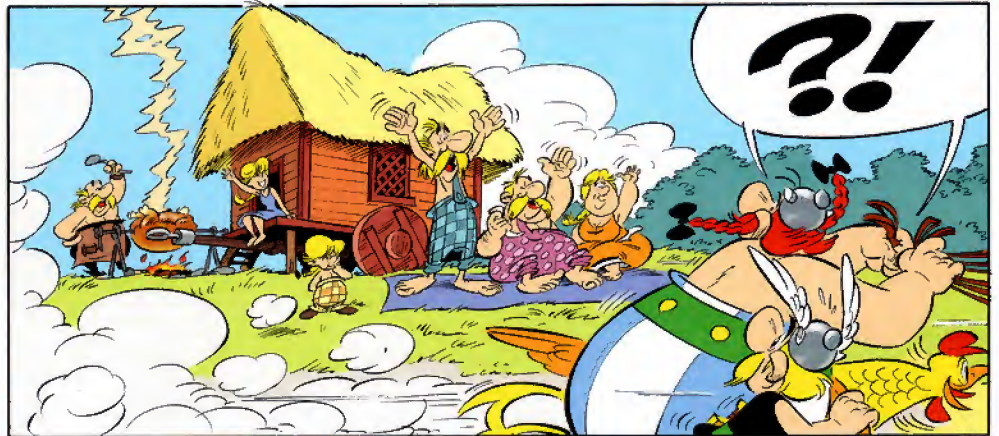
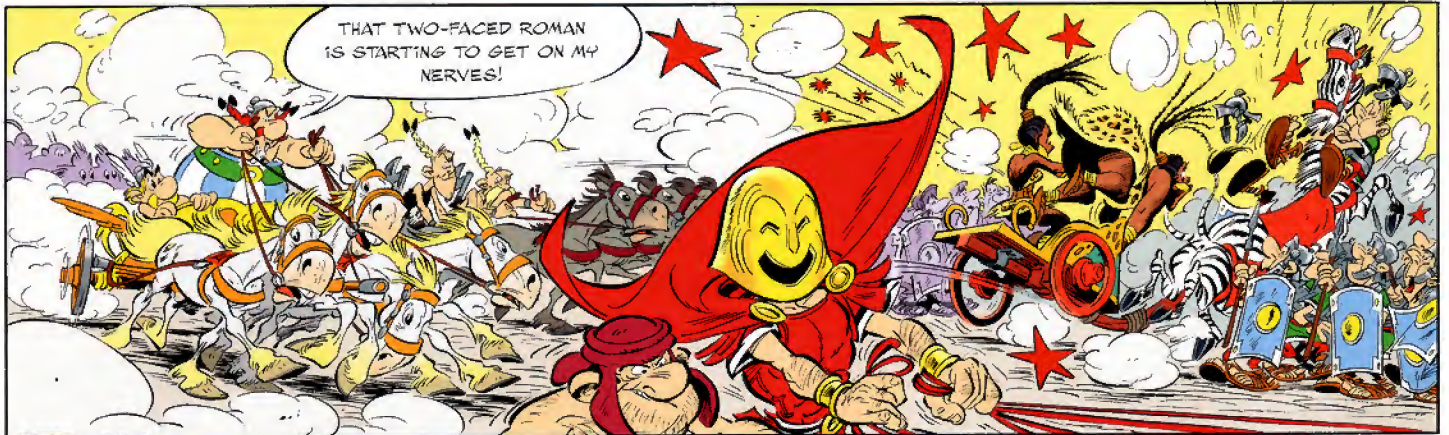


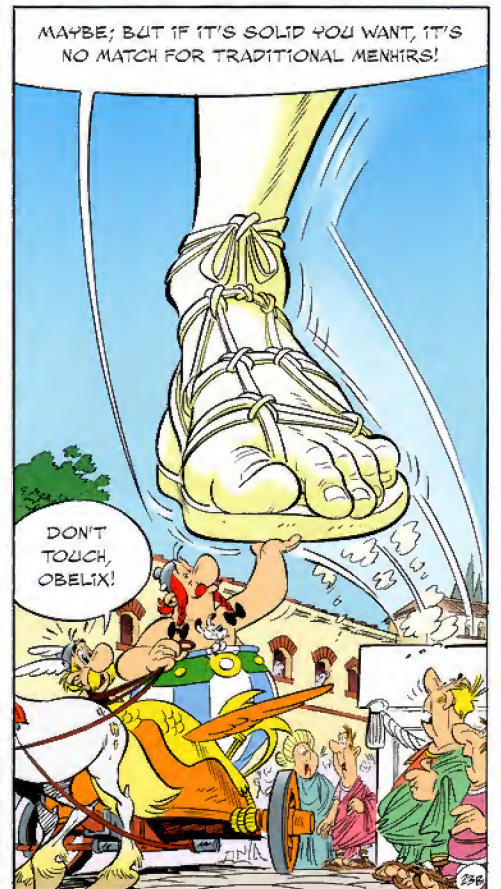
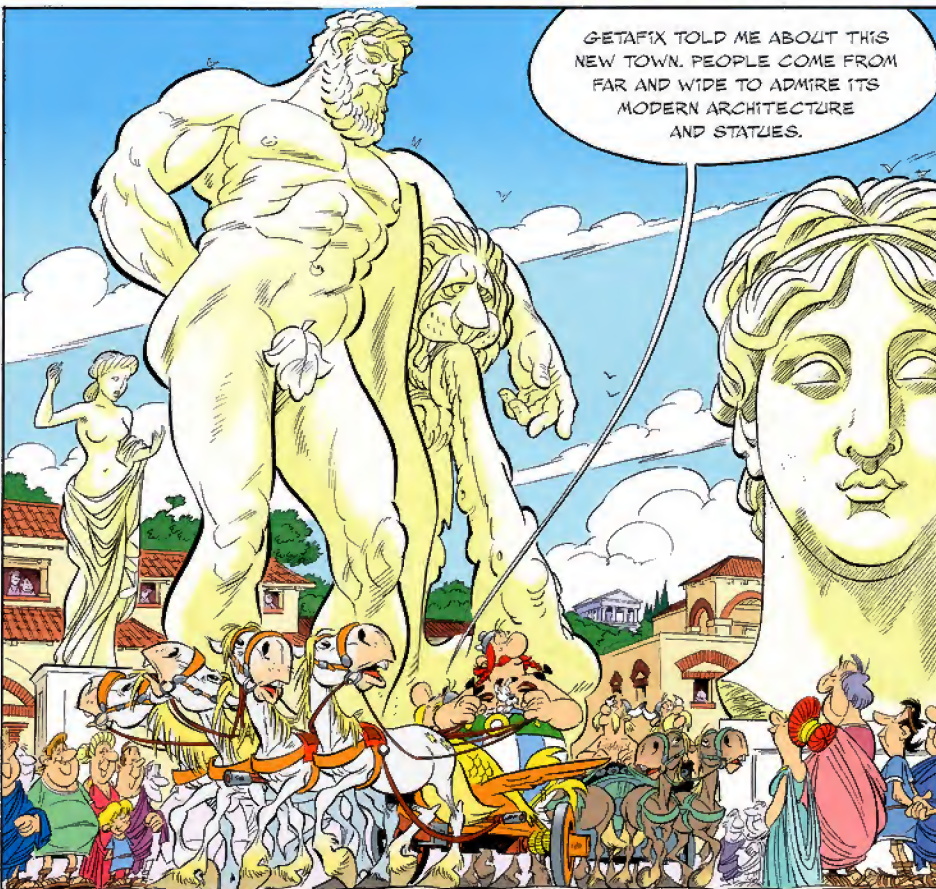
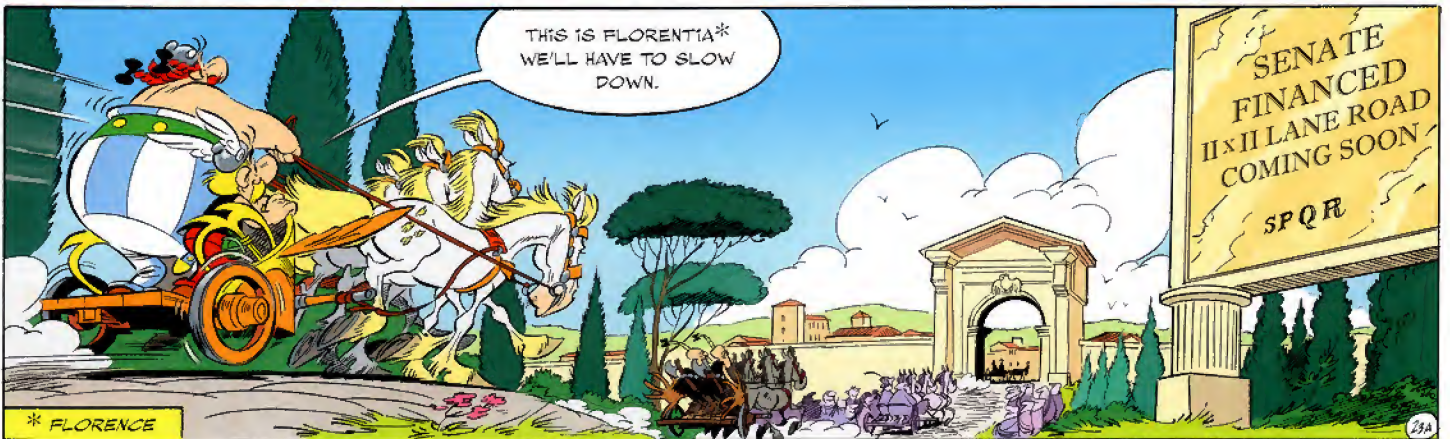
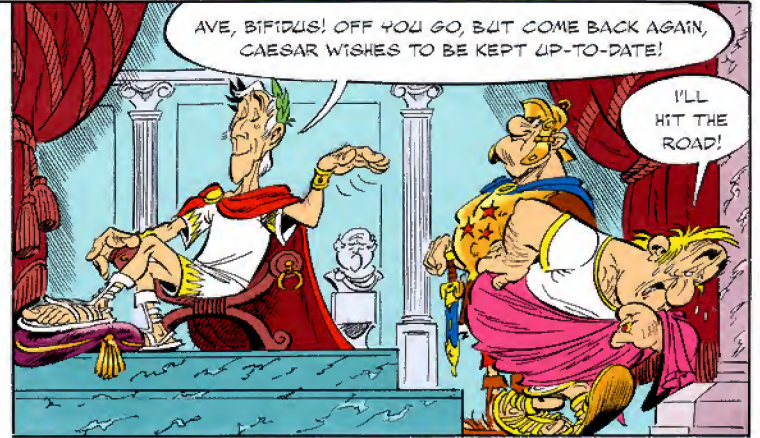
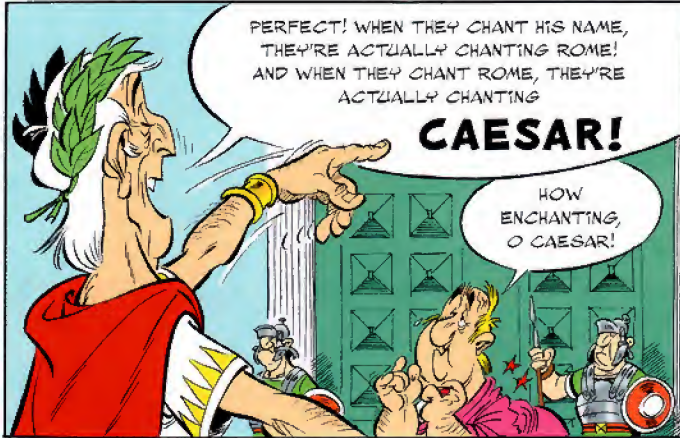


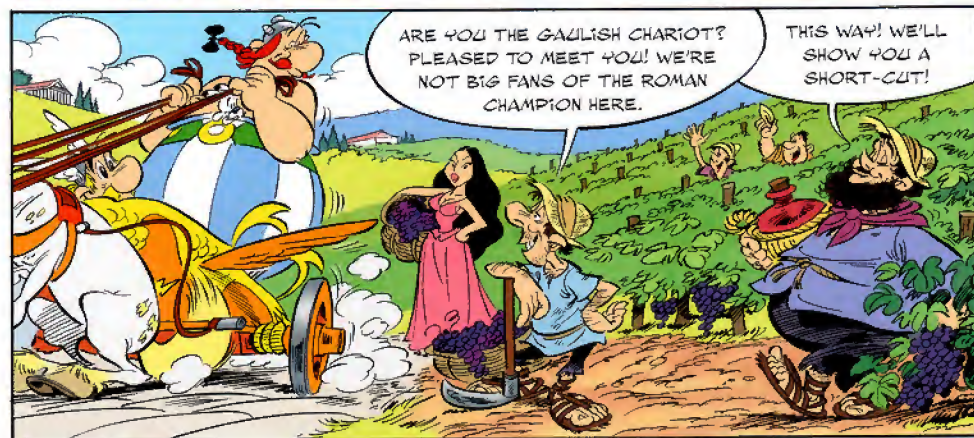
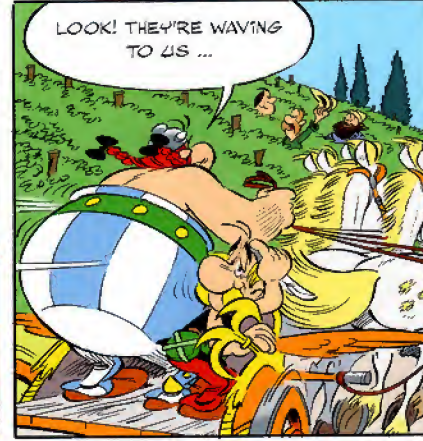
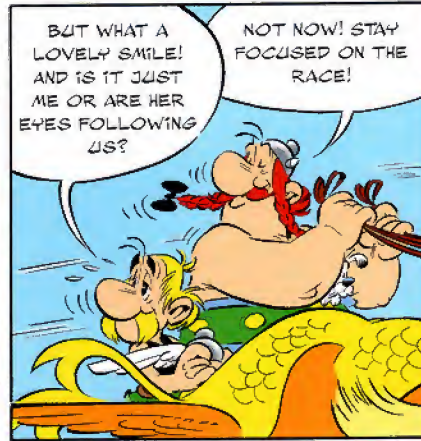
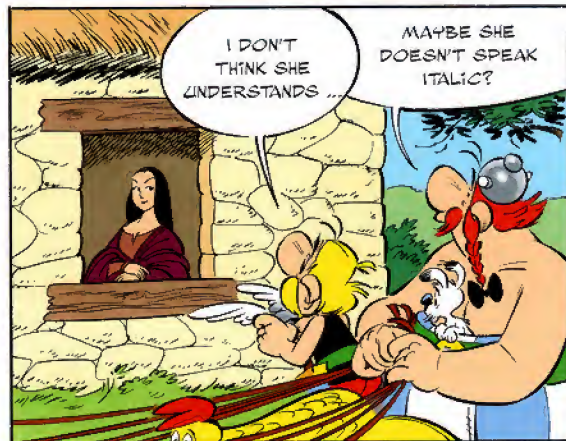
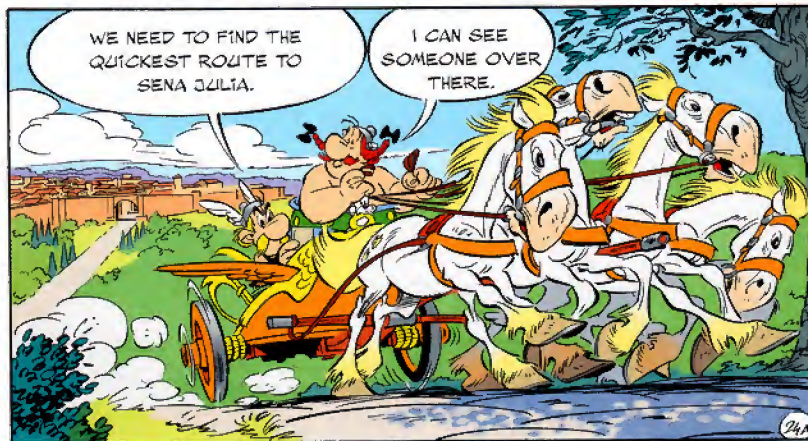
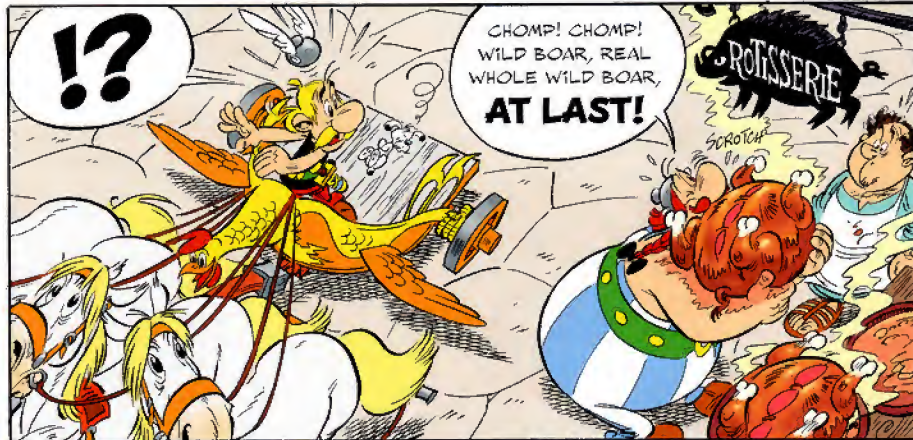
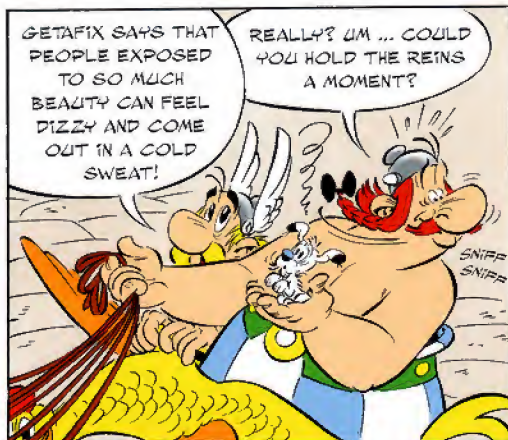


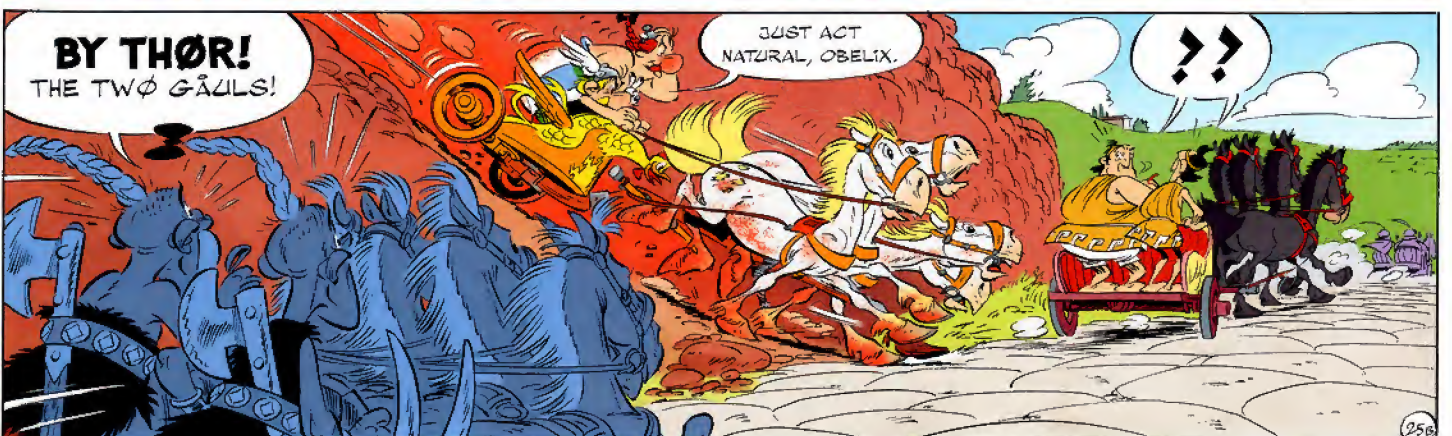
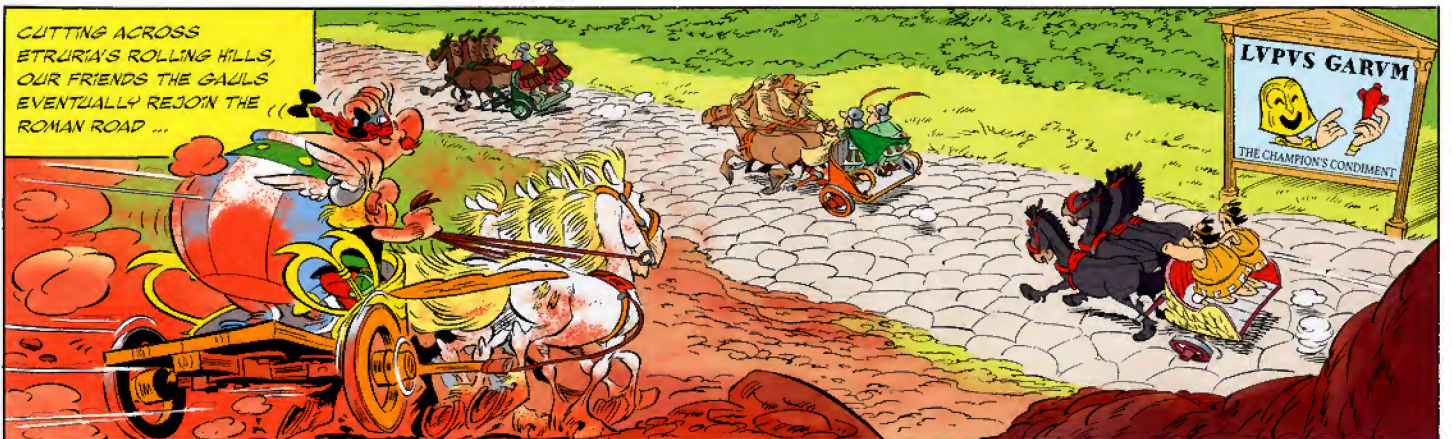
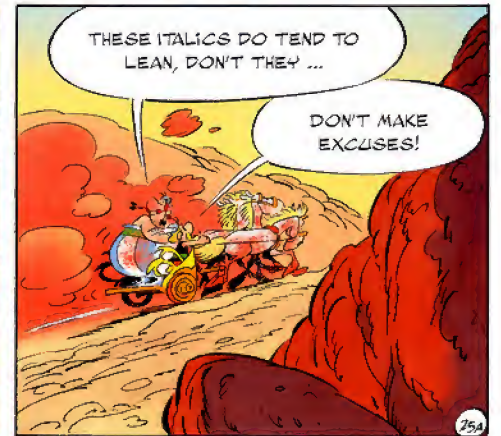
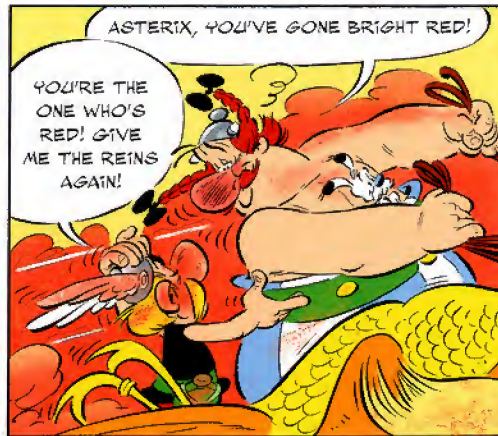
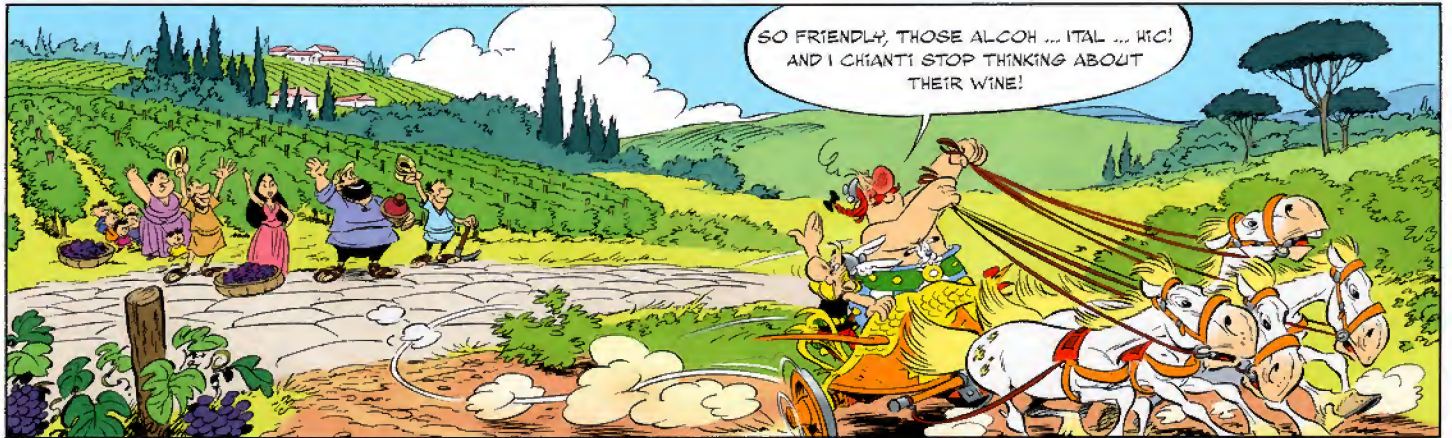


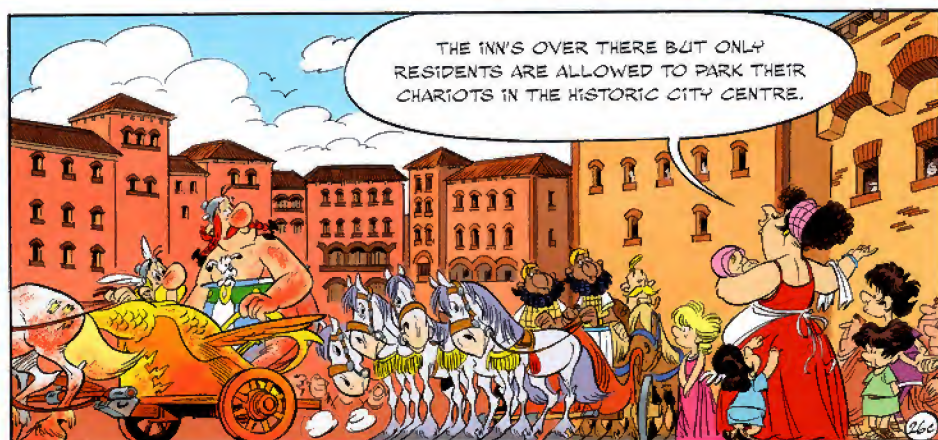


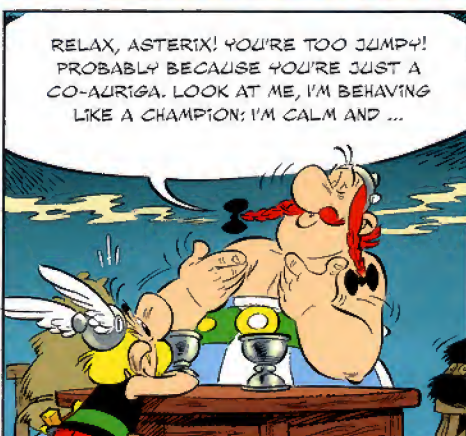
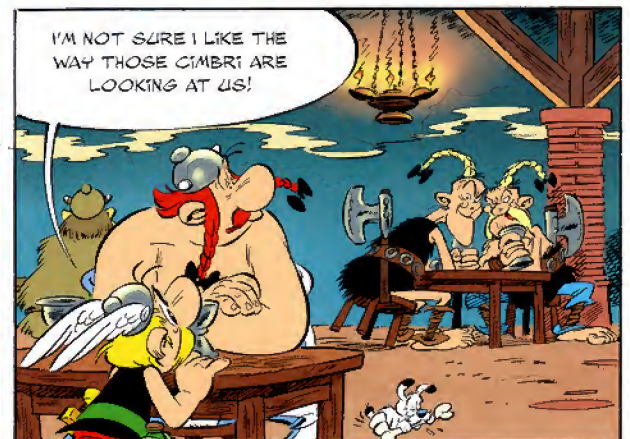
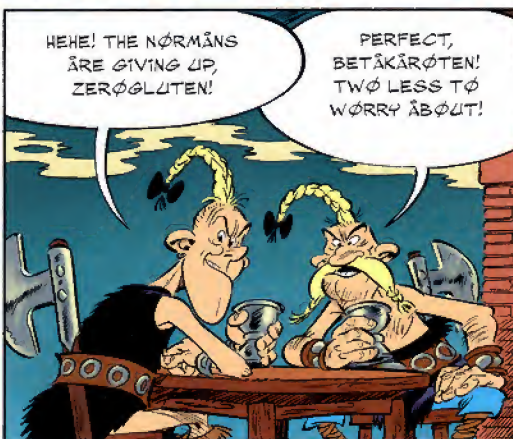
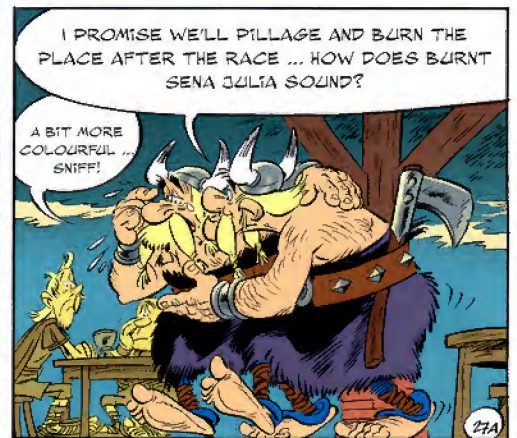
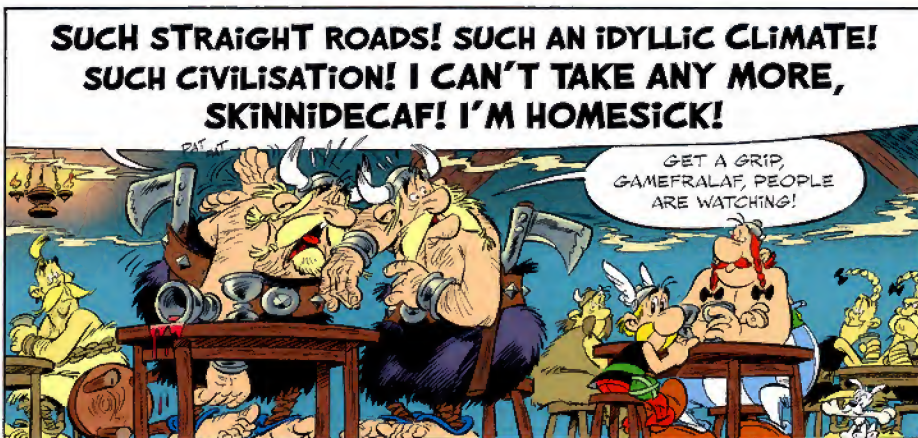
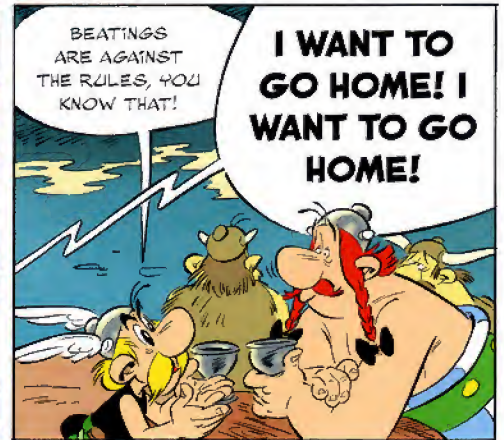
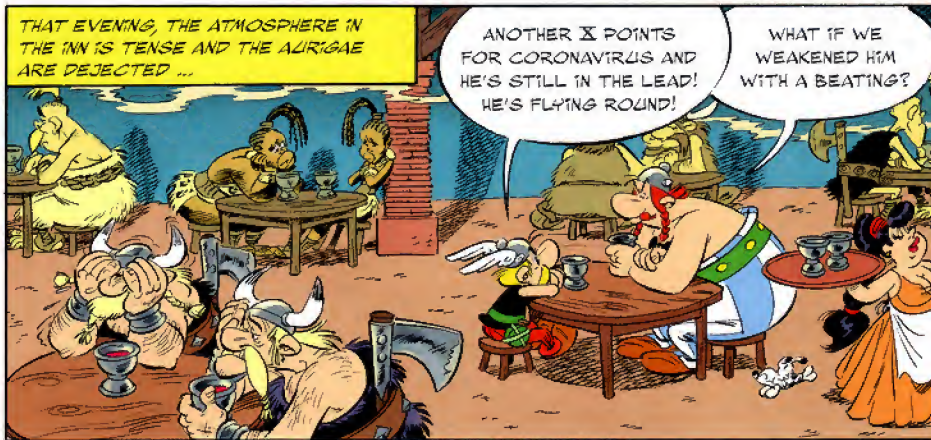


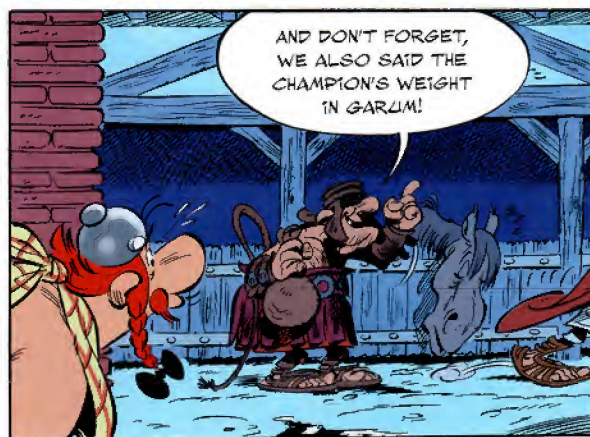
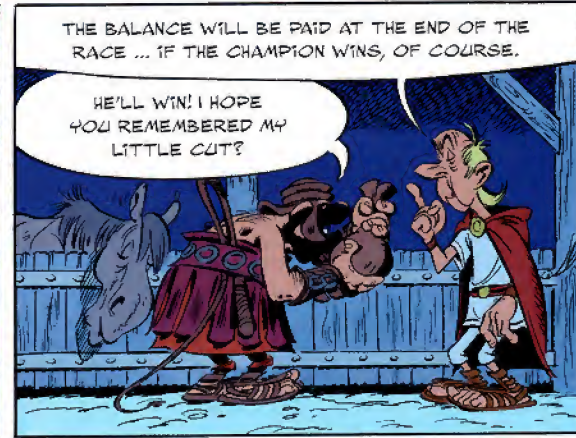
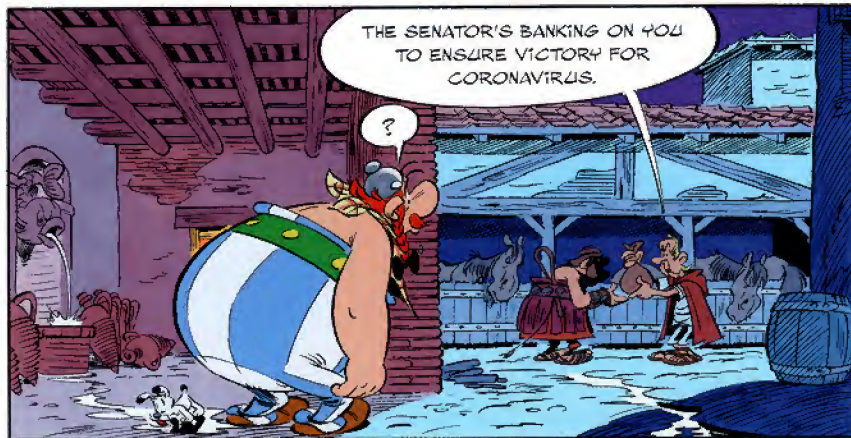
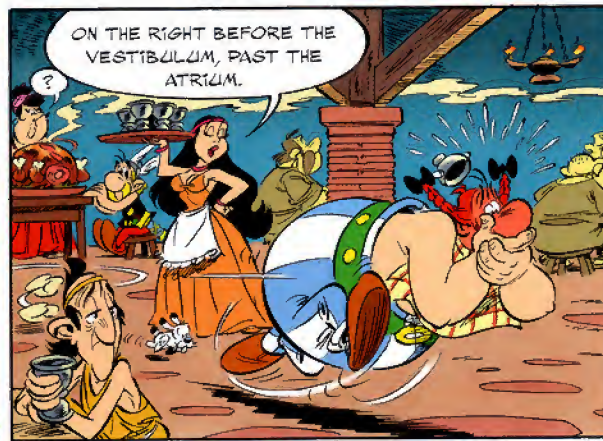
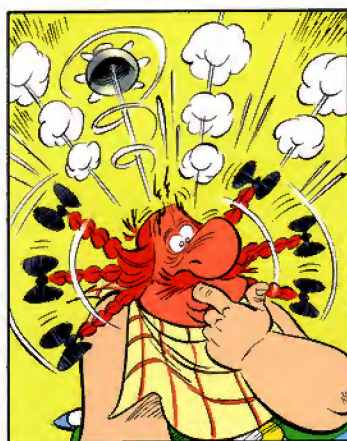
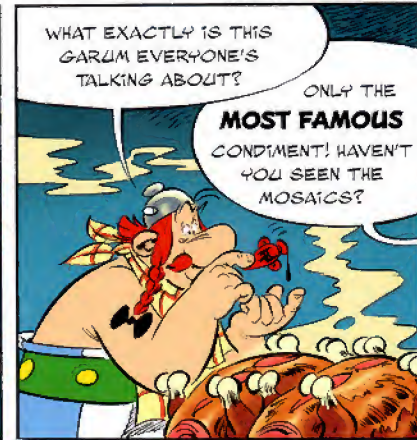




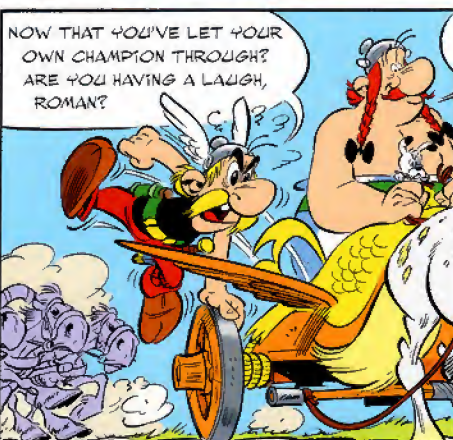
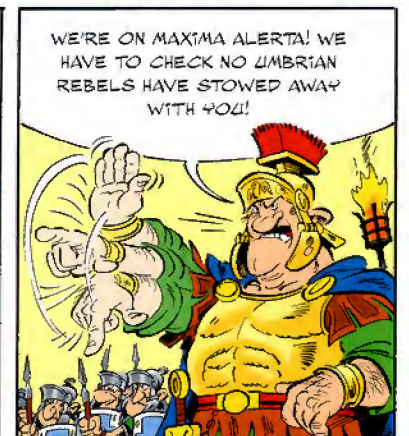
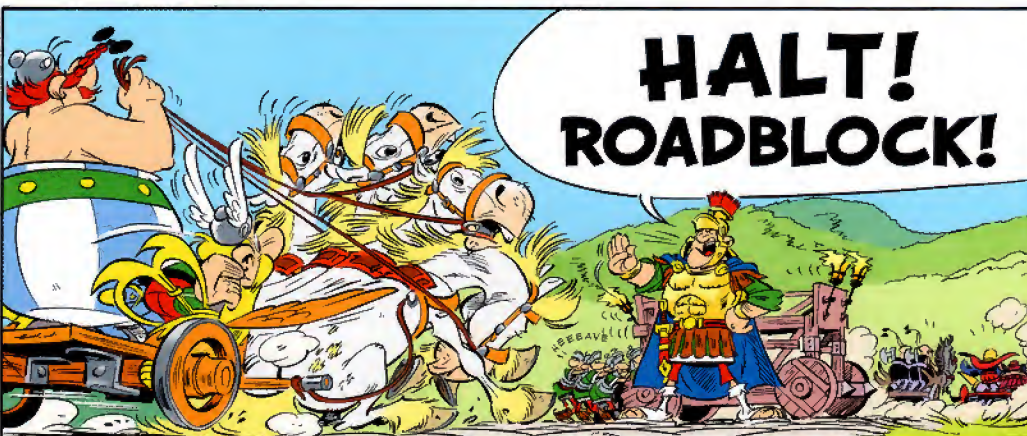
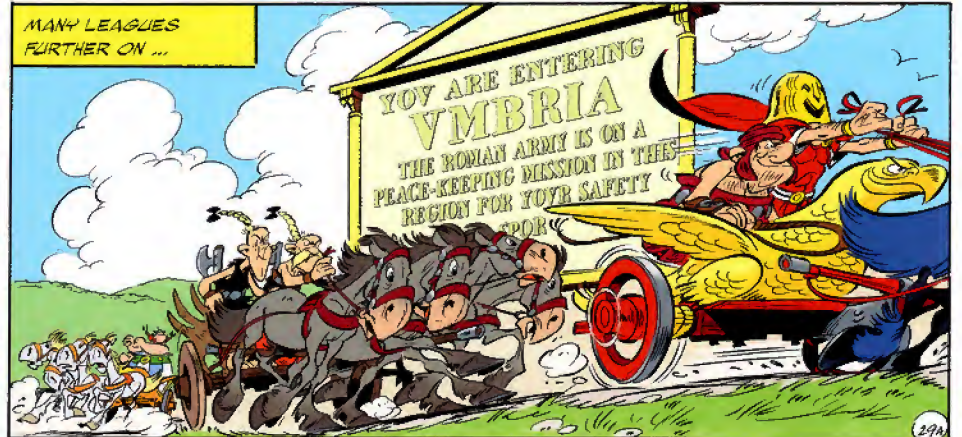
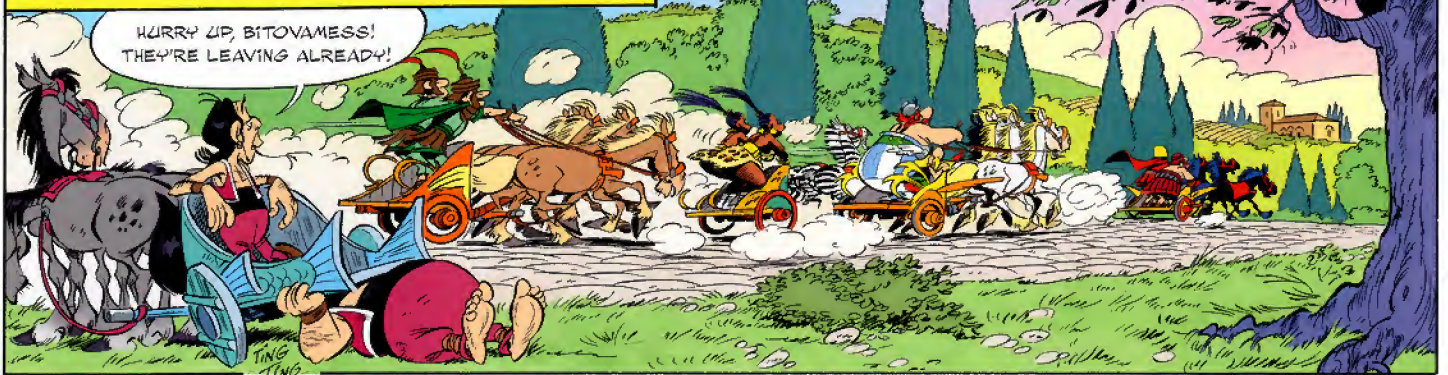


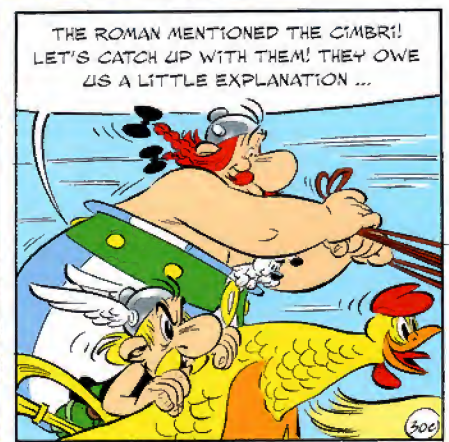
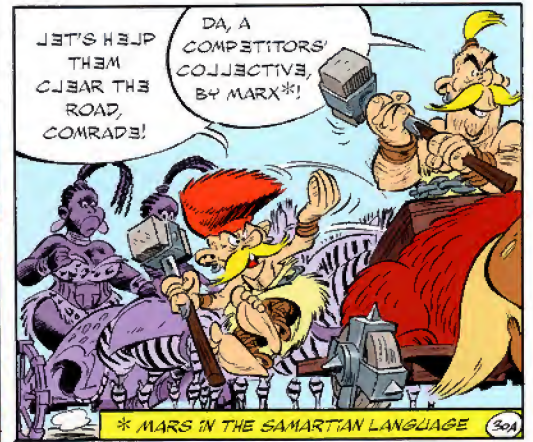


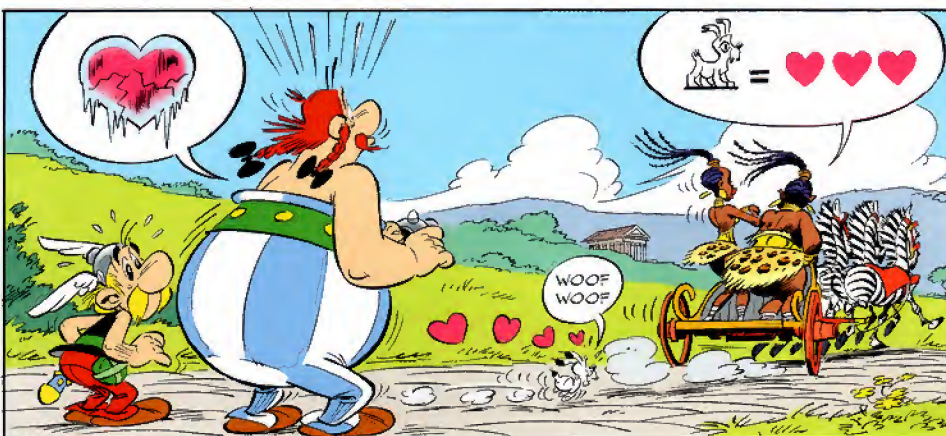
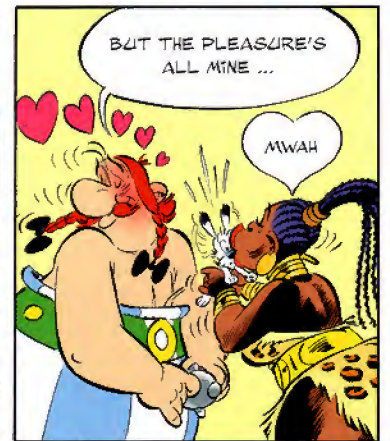
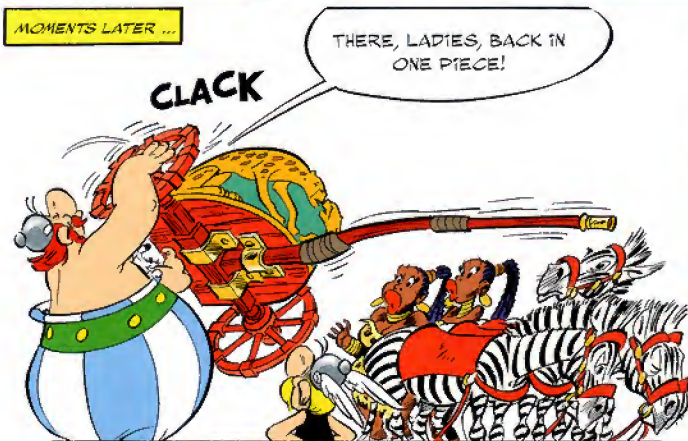
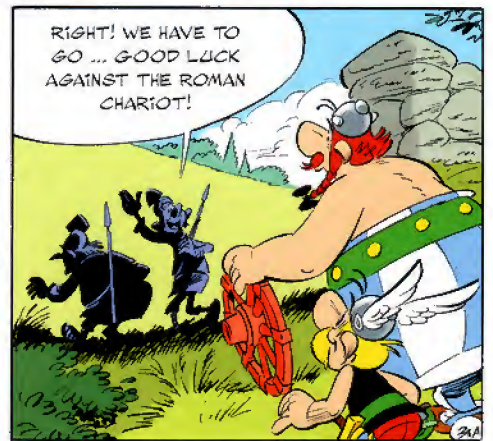
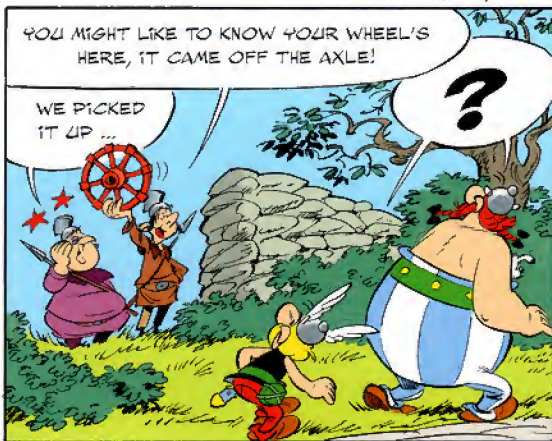
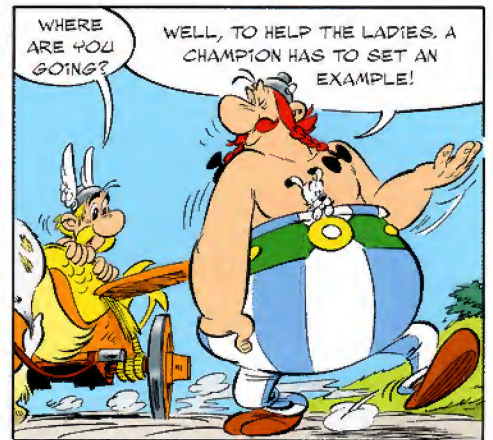




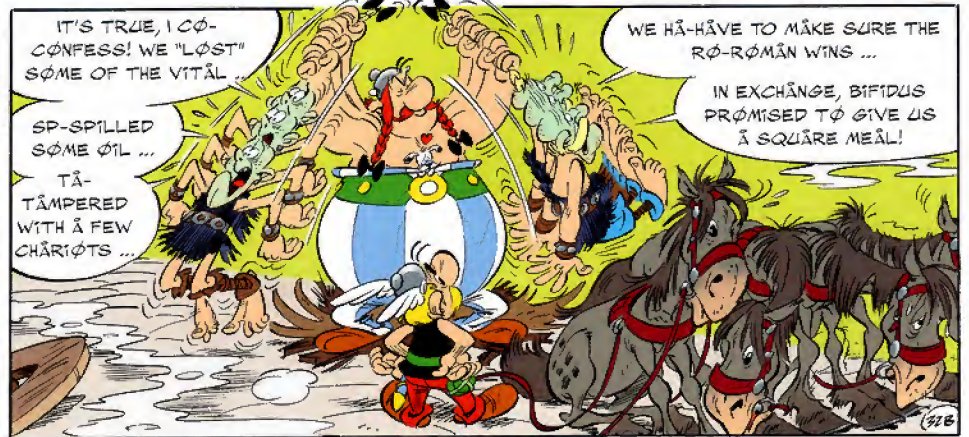
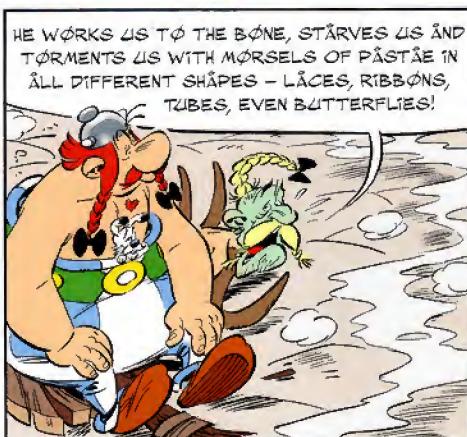
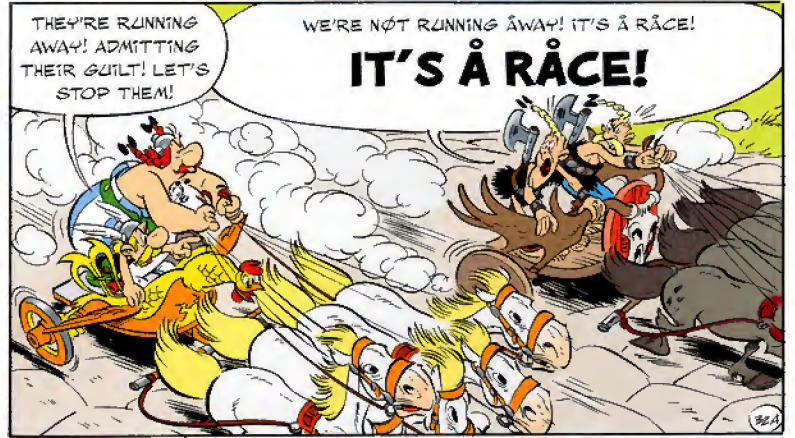
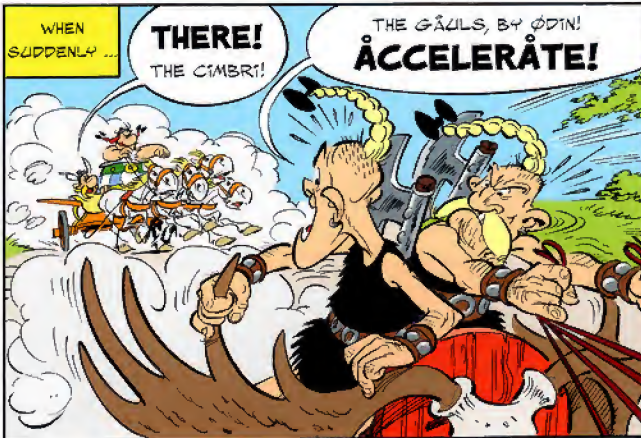
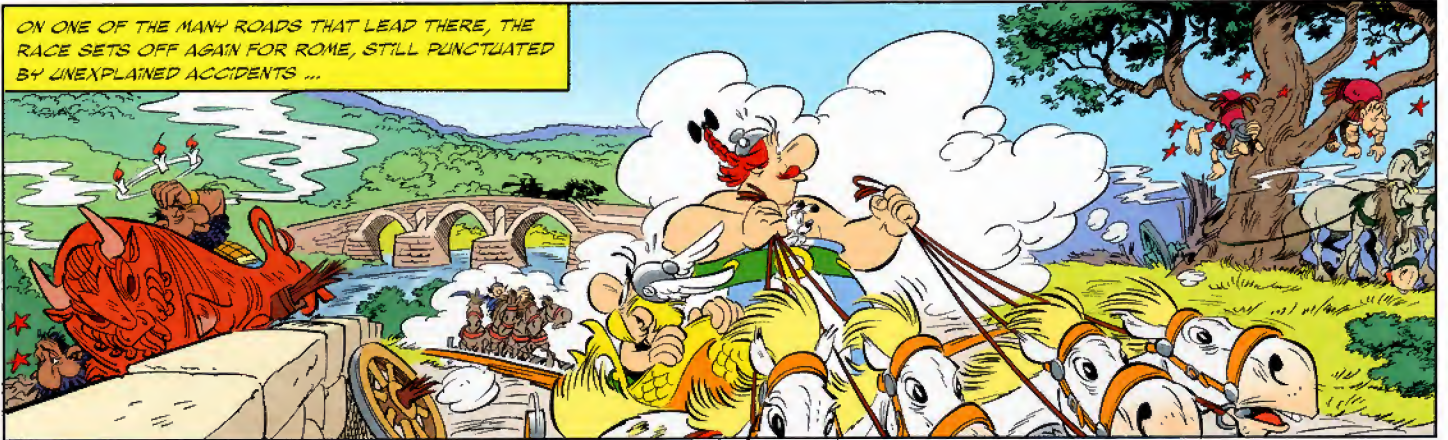
AND AT THE CRACK OF DAWN, THE RACE SETS OFF FROM SENA JULIA ON TO THE NEXT STAGE ...

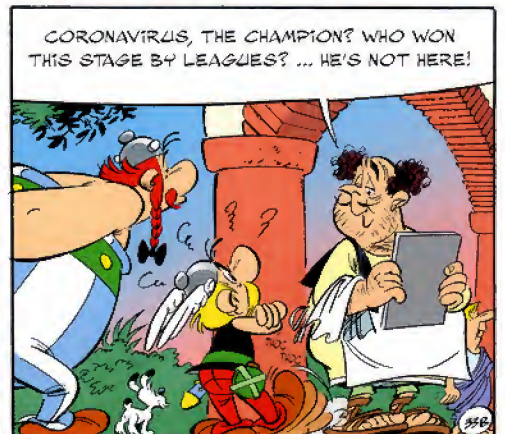
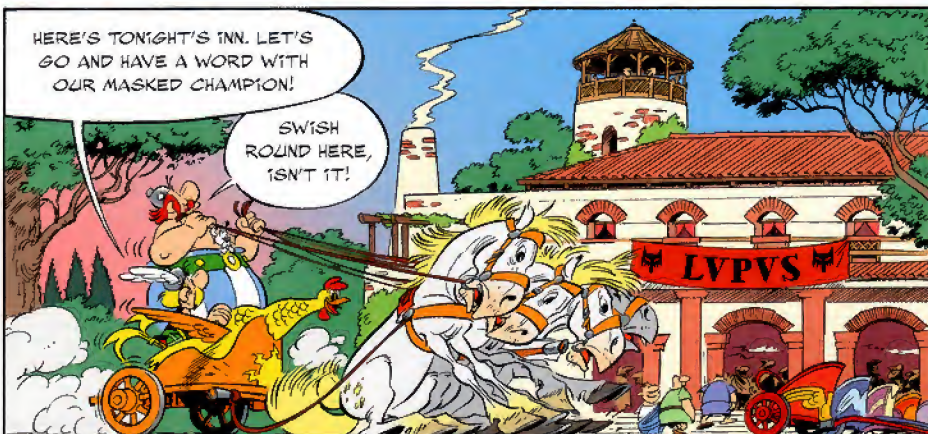
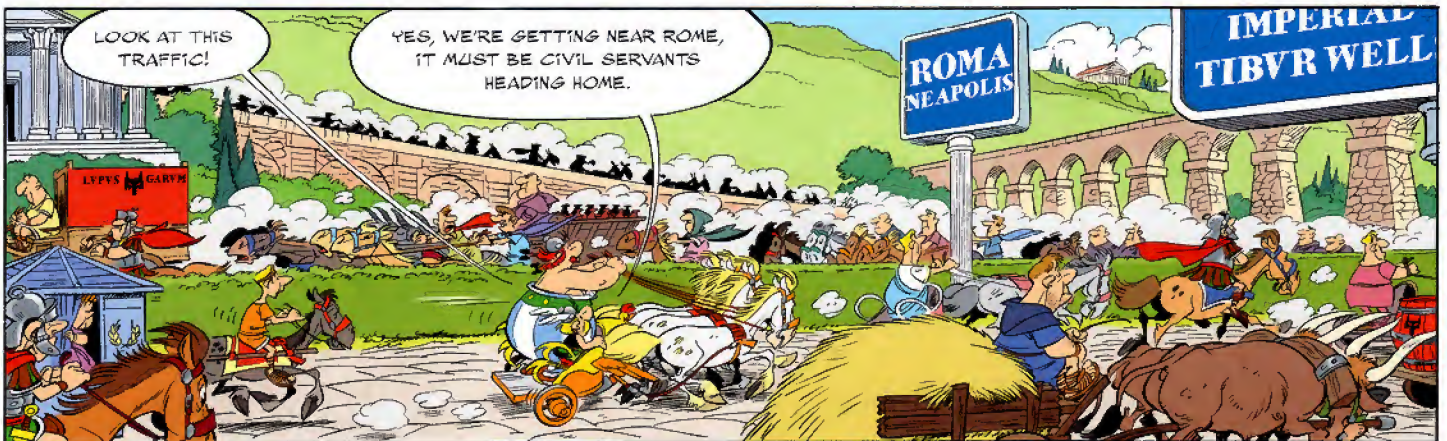
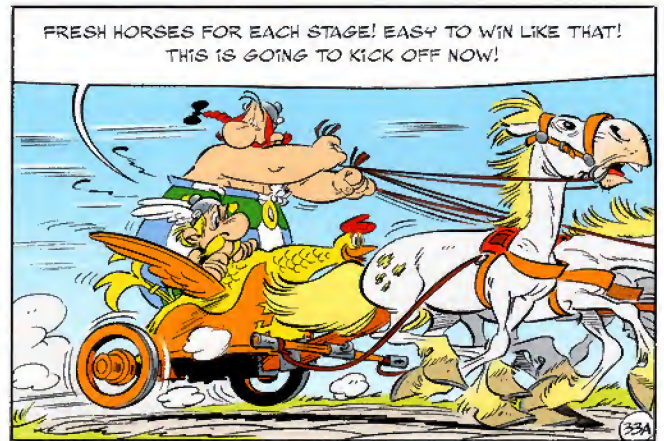
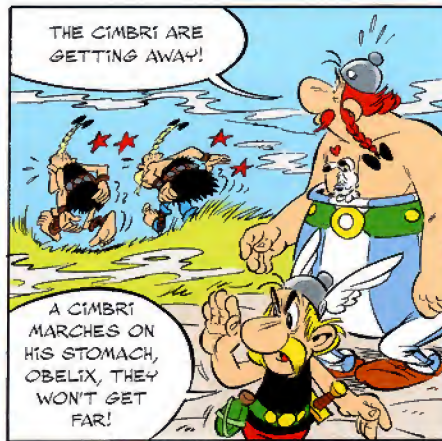
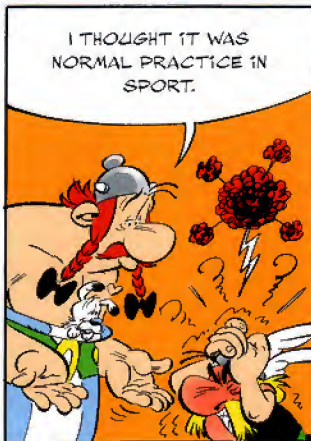
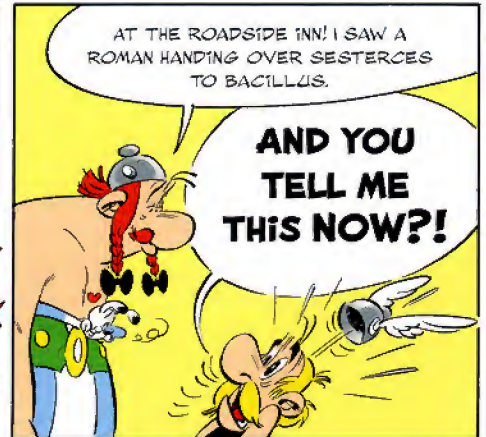




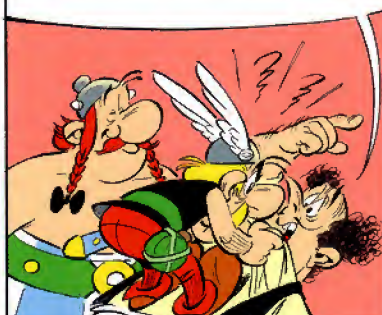


ON ONE OF THE MANY ROADS THAT LEAD THERE, THE RACE SETS OFF AGAIN FOR ROME, STILL PUNCTUATED BY UNEXPLAINED ACCIDENTS ...



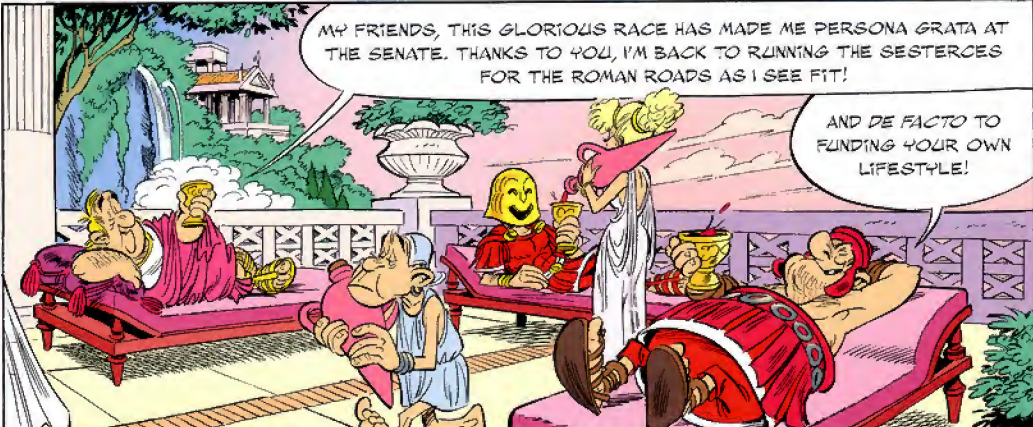


HE'S A GUEST OF SENATOR BIFIDUS, WHO HAS A SMALL HOLIDAY VILLA NOT FAR FROM HERE!



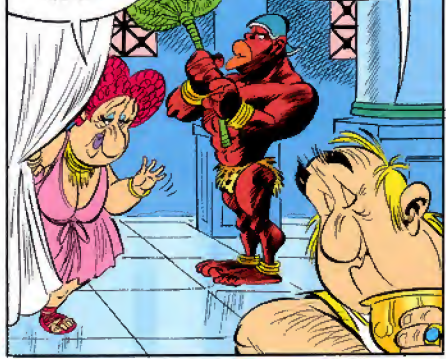
MY FRIENDS, THIS GLORIOUS RACE HAS MADE ME PERSONA GRATA AT THE SENATE. THANKS TO YOU, I'M BACK TO RUNNING THE SESTERCES FOR THE ROMAN ROADS AS I SEE FIT!

AND DE FACTO TO FUNDING YOUR OWN LIFESTYLE!

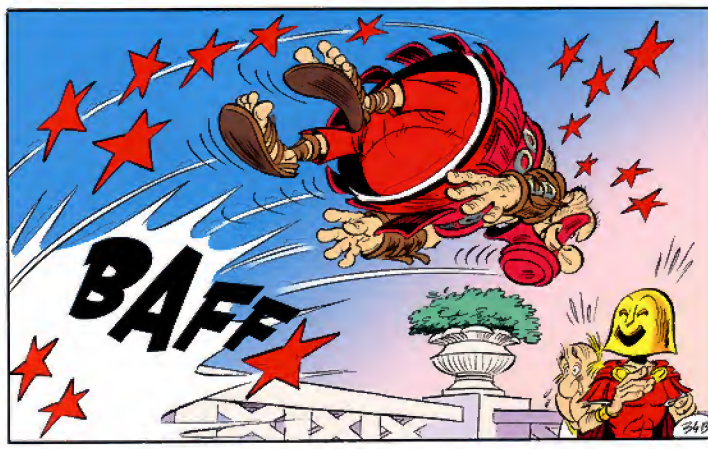
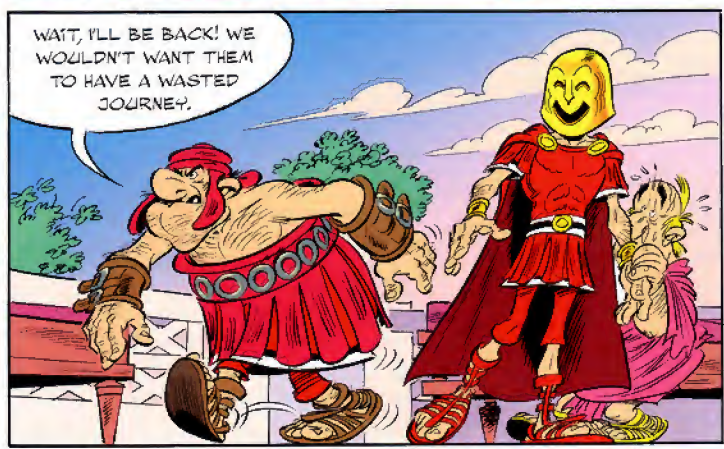
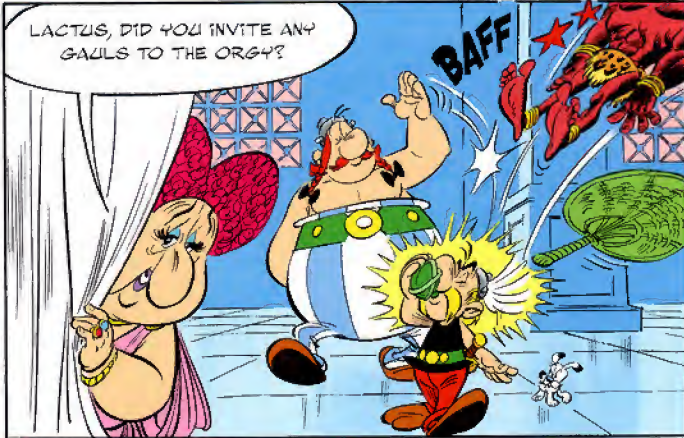
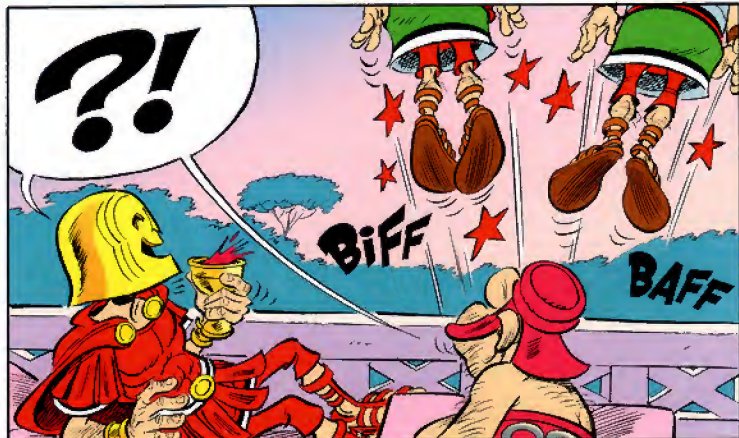
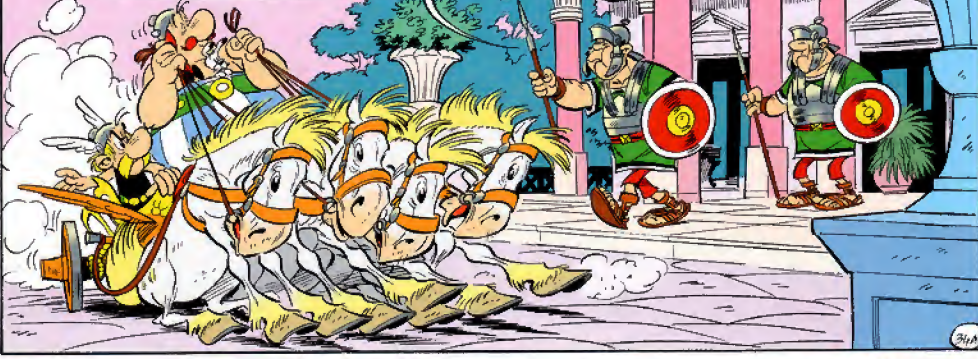


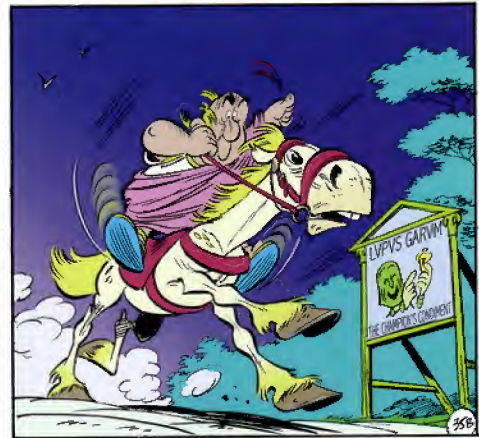
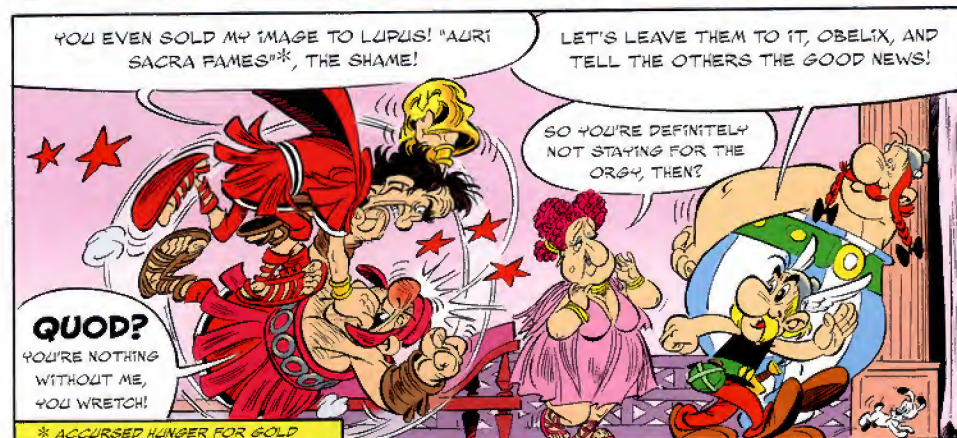
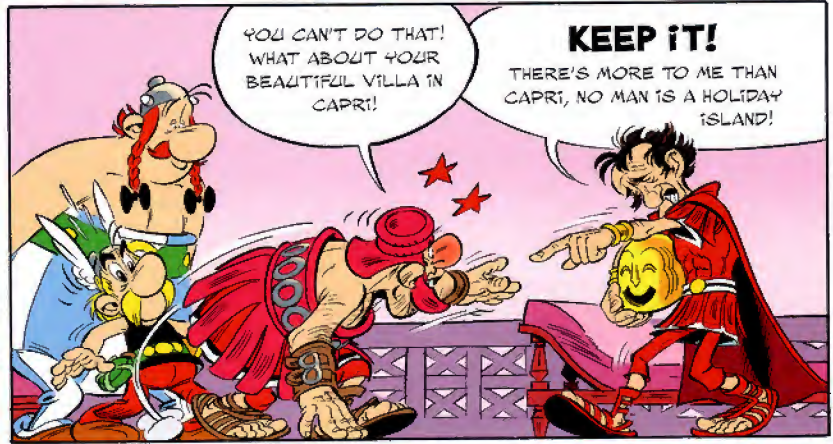
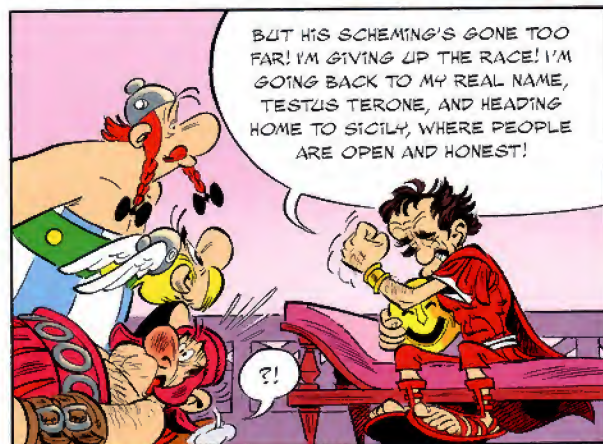
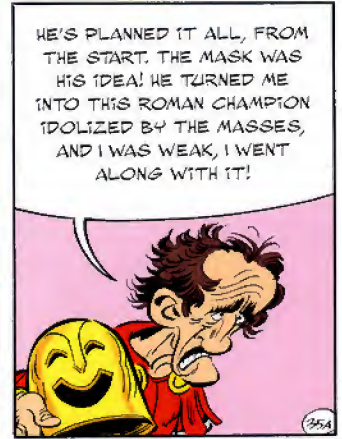
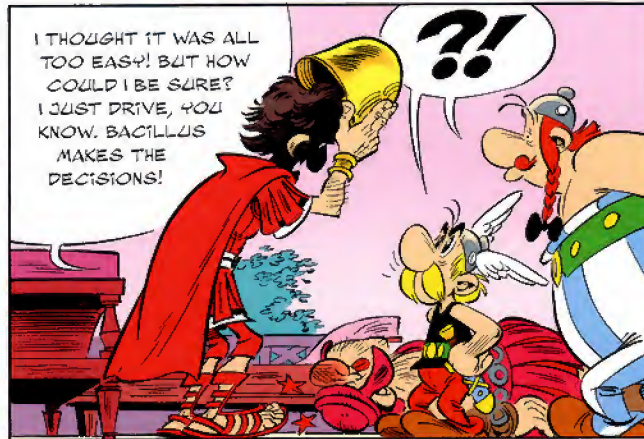
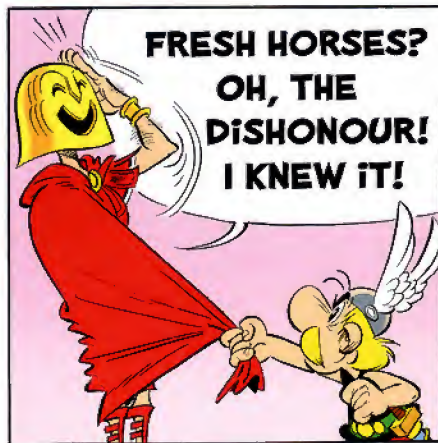
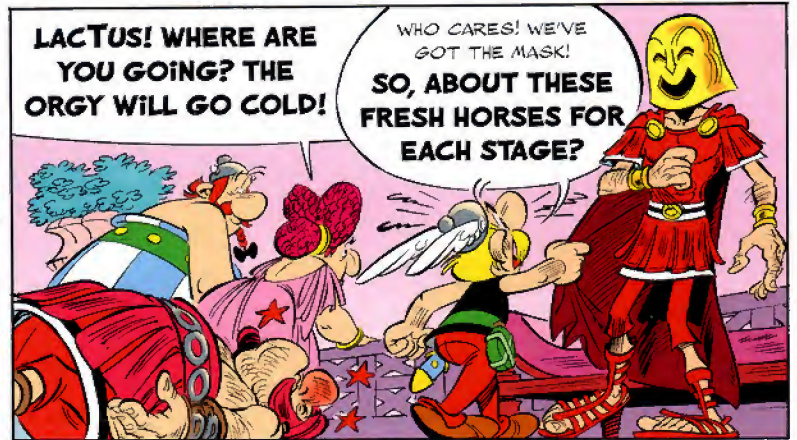
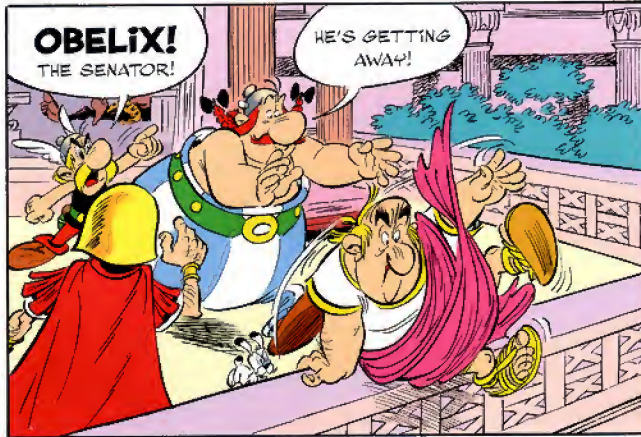
LACTUS, THE ORGY'S READY!

JUST COMING, MOZZARELLA!



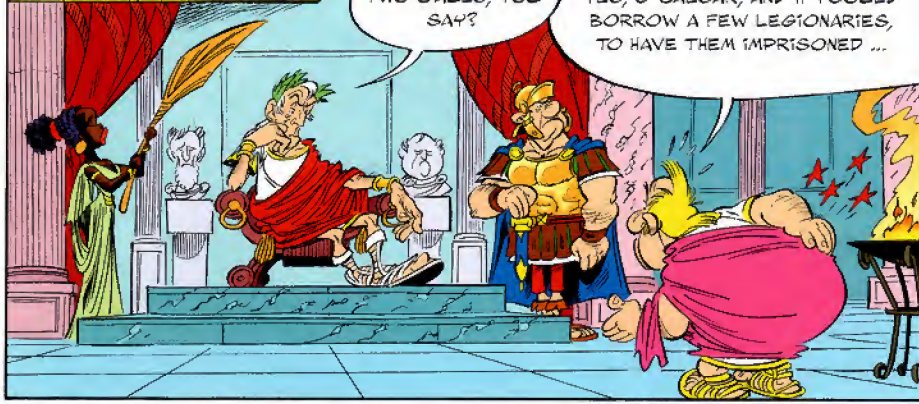
HEY, YOU TWO! YOU CAN'T PARK OUTSIDE THE SENATOR'S VILLA!





* ACCURSED HUNGER FOR GOLD

SOME TIME LATER, IN ROME ...



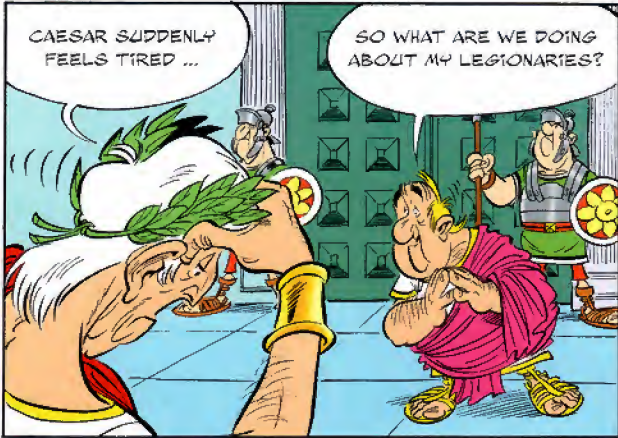
TWO GAULS, YOU SAY?

YES, O CAESAR, AND IF I COULD BORROW A FEW LEGIONARIES, TO HAVE THEM IMPRISONED ...

A FAT CARROT-TOPPED GAUL WITH A LITTLE WHITE DOG AND A THIN LITTLE GAUL WITH A GREEN GOURD?



EXACTLY! DO YOU KNOW THEM?



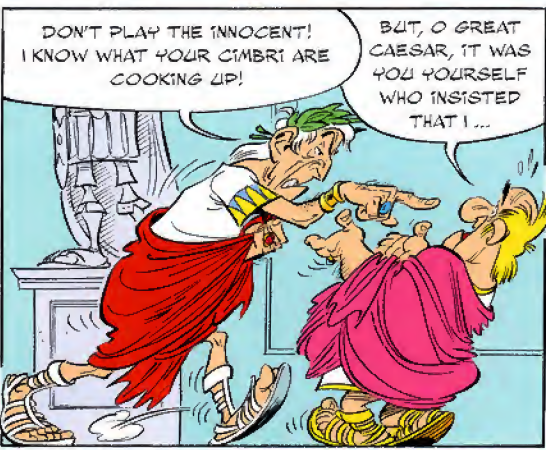
CAESAR SUDDENLY FEELS TIRED ...

SO WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT MY LEGIONARIES?



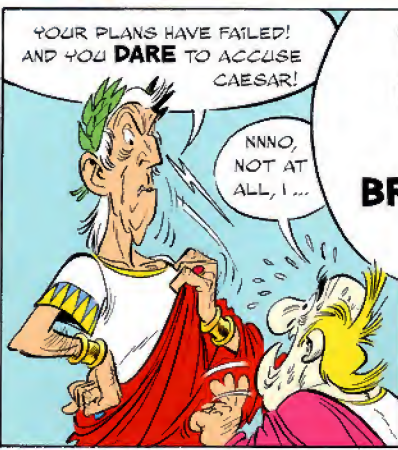
IMPRISON THE GAULS? SO THE WHOLE OF ITALY CAN SAY CAESAR'S AFRAID AND IS FIXING THE RACE?!

OH NO NO NO NO NO!!! GRACIOUS ME! FIXING'S NOT PRETTY AT ALL!



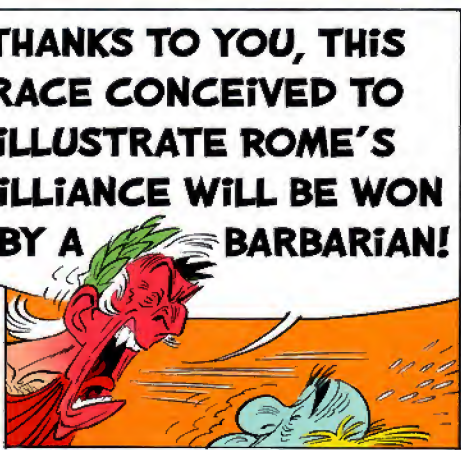
DON'T PLAY THE INNOCENT! I KNOW WHAT YOUR CIMBRI ARE COOKING UP!

BUT, O GREAT CAESAR, IT WAS YOU YOURSELF WHO INSISTED THAT I ...



YOUR PLANS HAVE FAILED! AND YOU DARE TO ACCUSE CAESAR!

NNNO, NOT AT ALL, I ...



THANKS TO YOU, THIS RACE CONCEIVED TO ILLUSTRATE ROME'S BRILLIANCE WILL BE WON BY A BARBARIAN!



TO CYRENAICA!

I DON'T KNOW IT. WHAT'S IT LIKE?

ARID.



CAESAR NEEDS TO THINK. LEAVE HIM NOW, ACIDUS REFLUS.

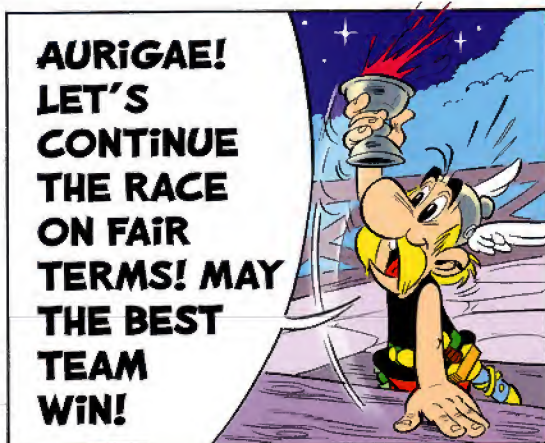
SINE CURIS*

* NO WORRIES

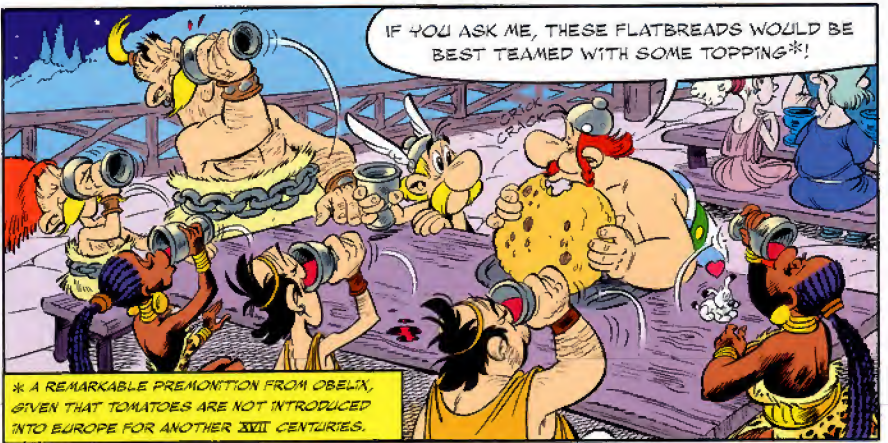
MEANWHILE, AT THE ROADSIDE INN IN TIBUR, THE REMAINING CONTESTANTS ARE CELEBRATING THE MASKED CHAMPION'S WITHDRAWAL ...



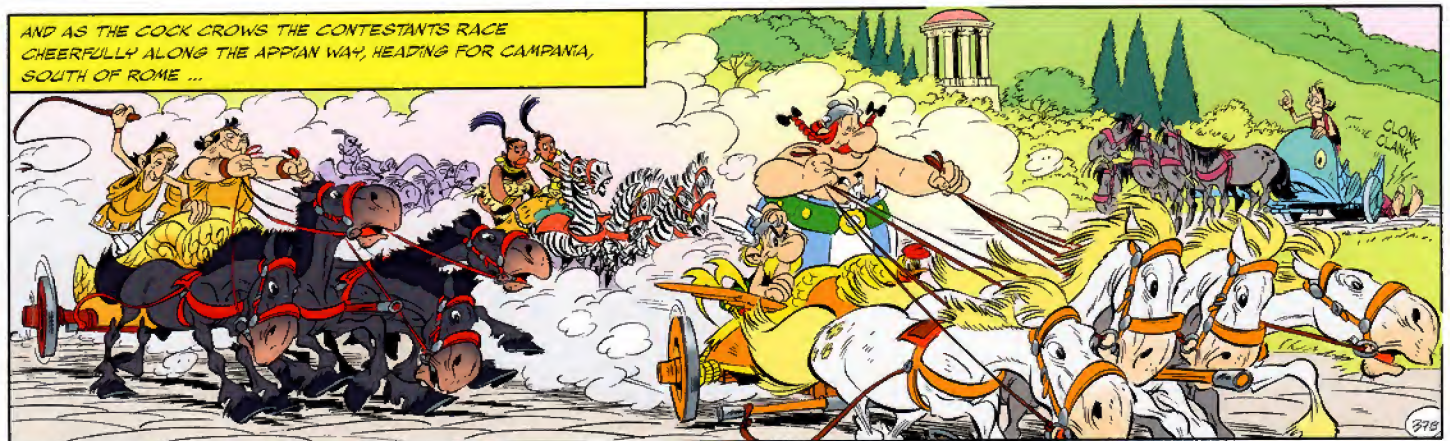
AURIGAE!
LET'S CONTINUE THE RACE ON FAIR TERMS! MAY THE BEST TEAM WIN!

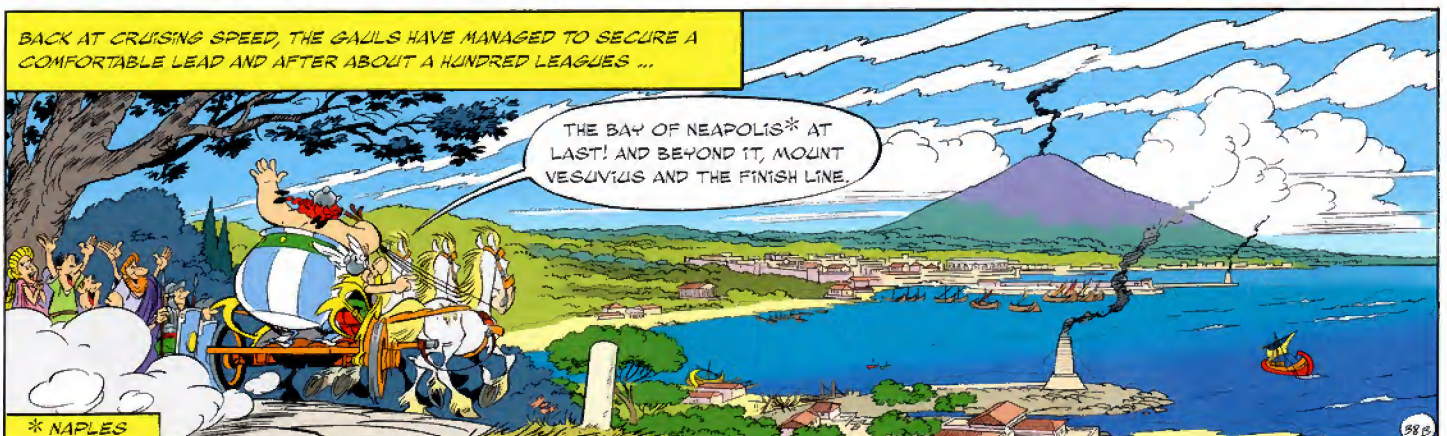
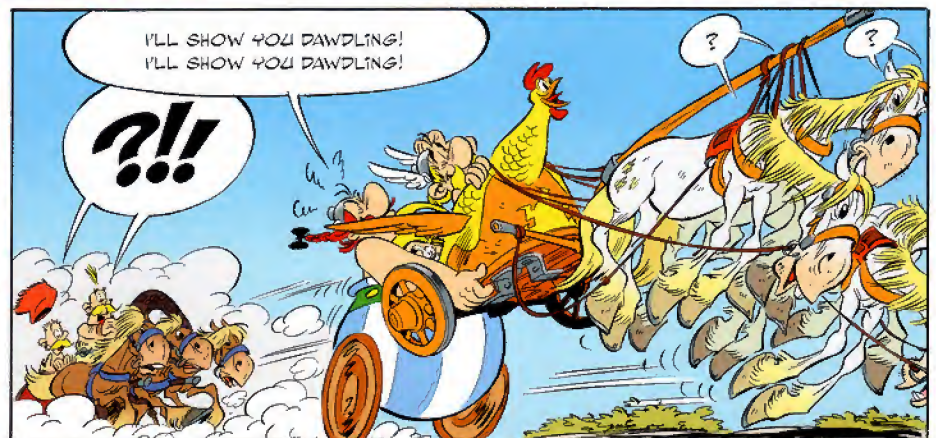
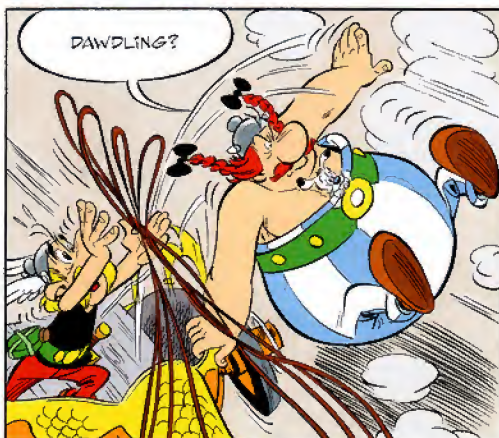
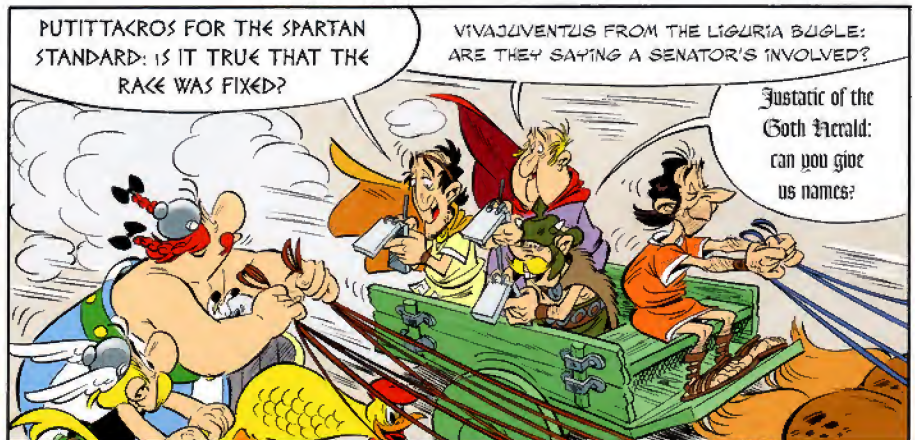
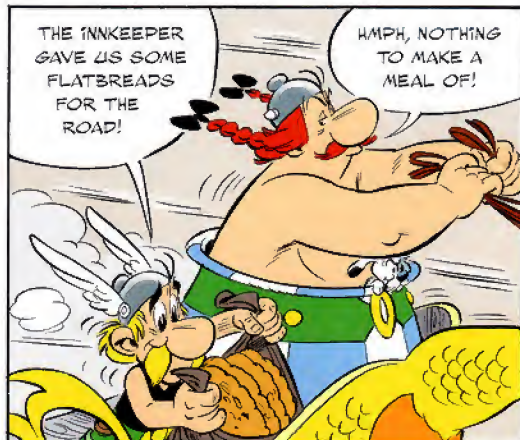


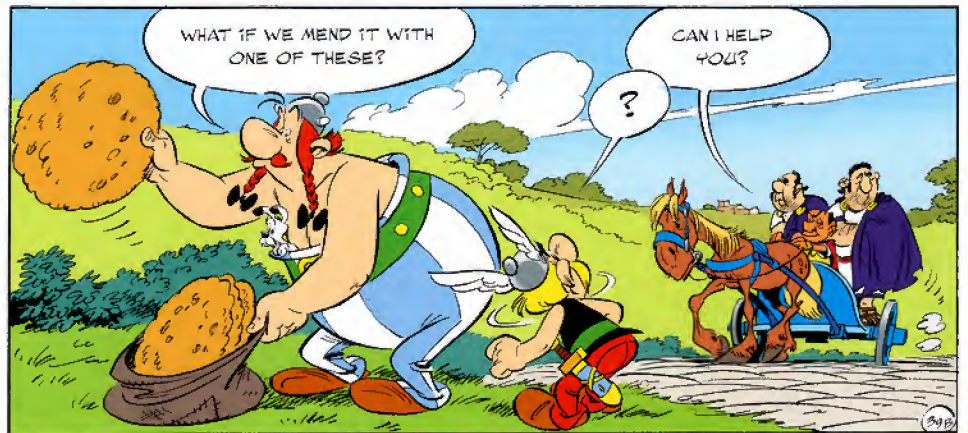
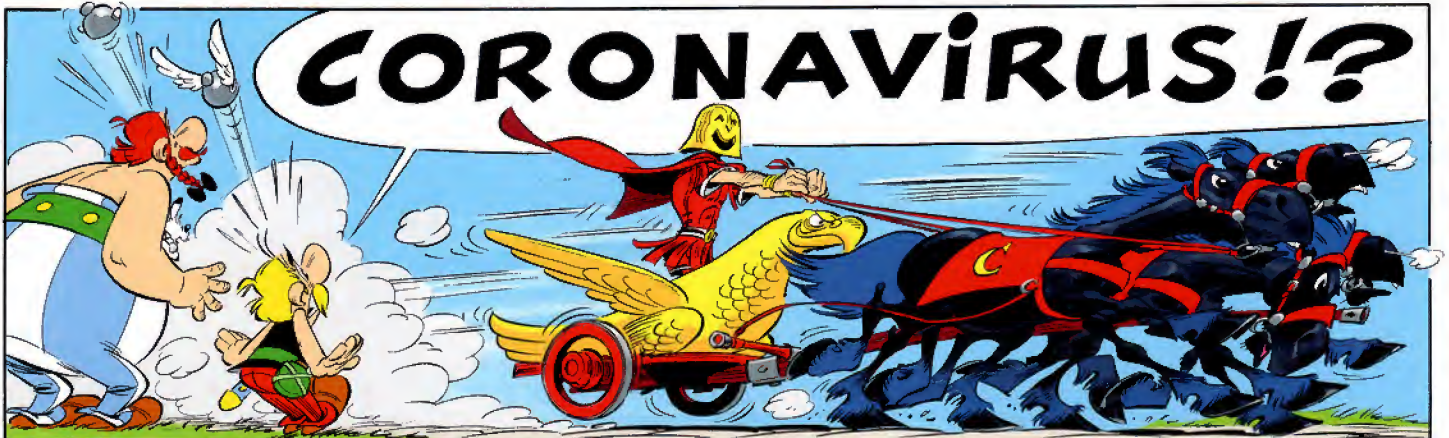
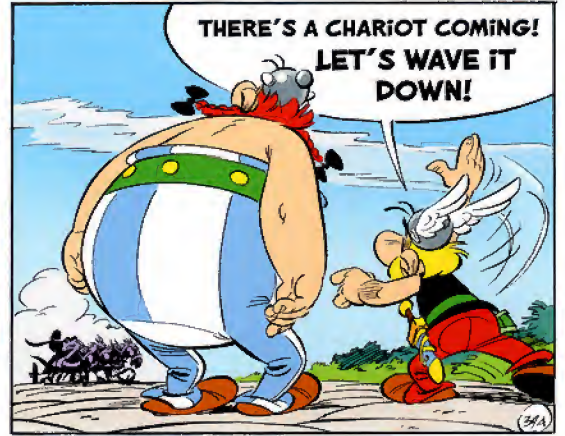
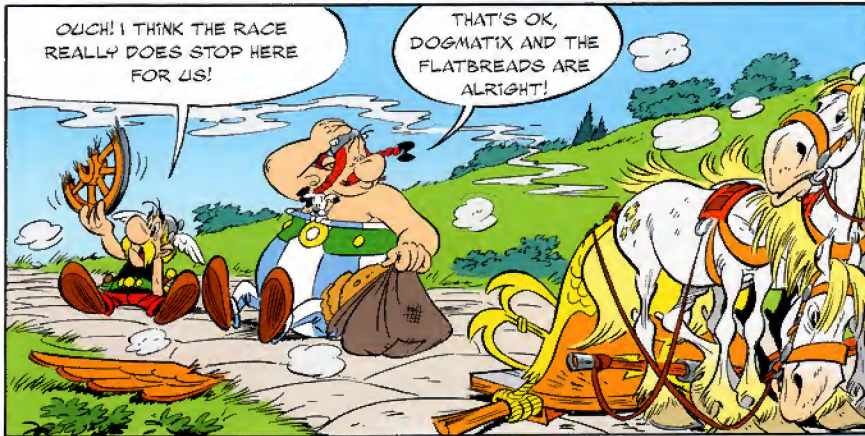
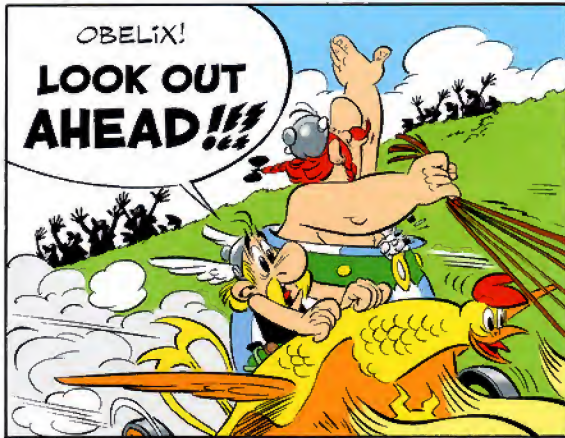
IF YOU ASK ME, THESE FLATBREADS WOULD BE BEST TEAMED WITH SOME TOPPING*!

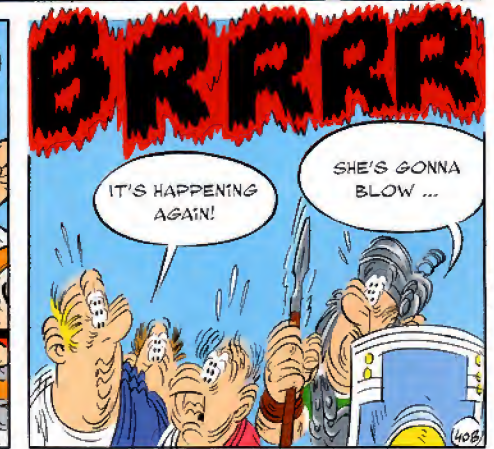
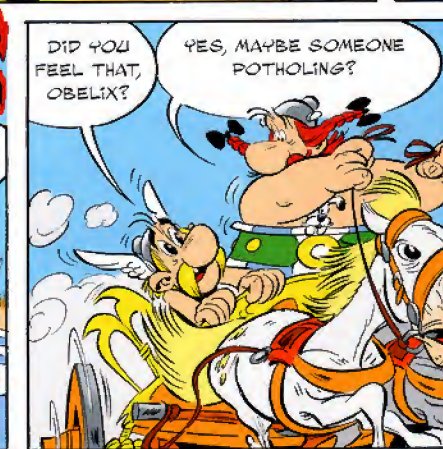
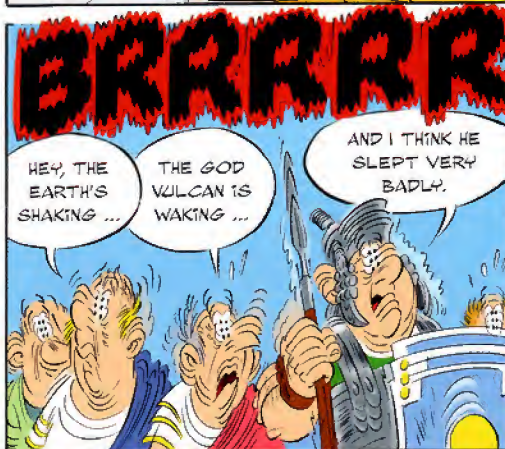
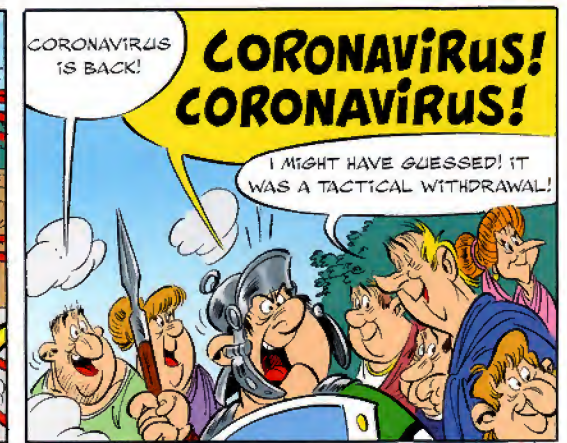
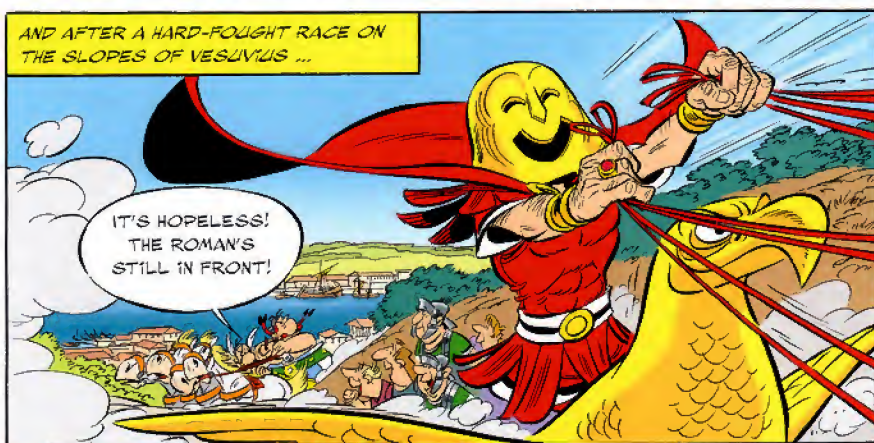
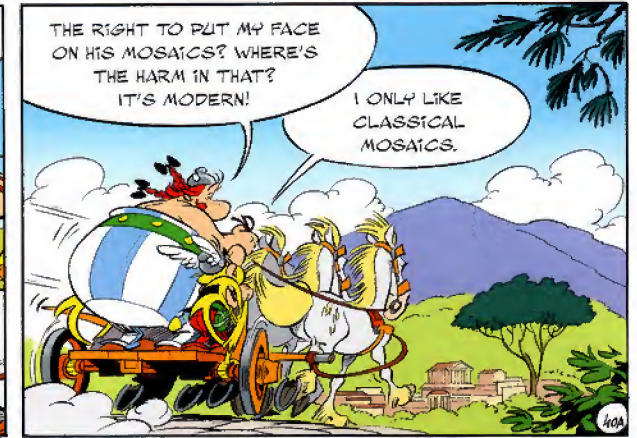
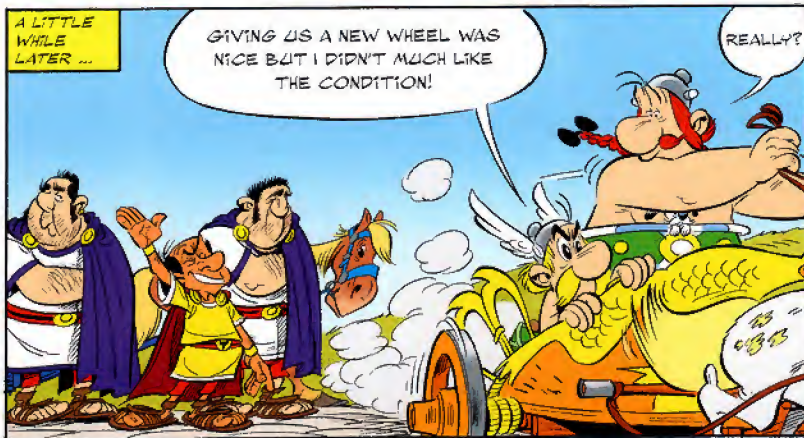
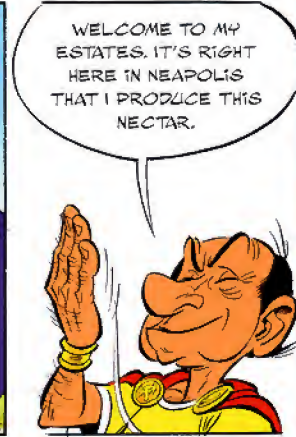


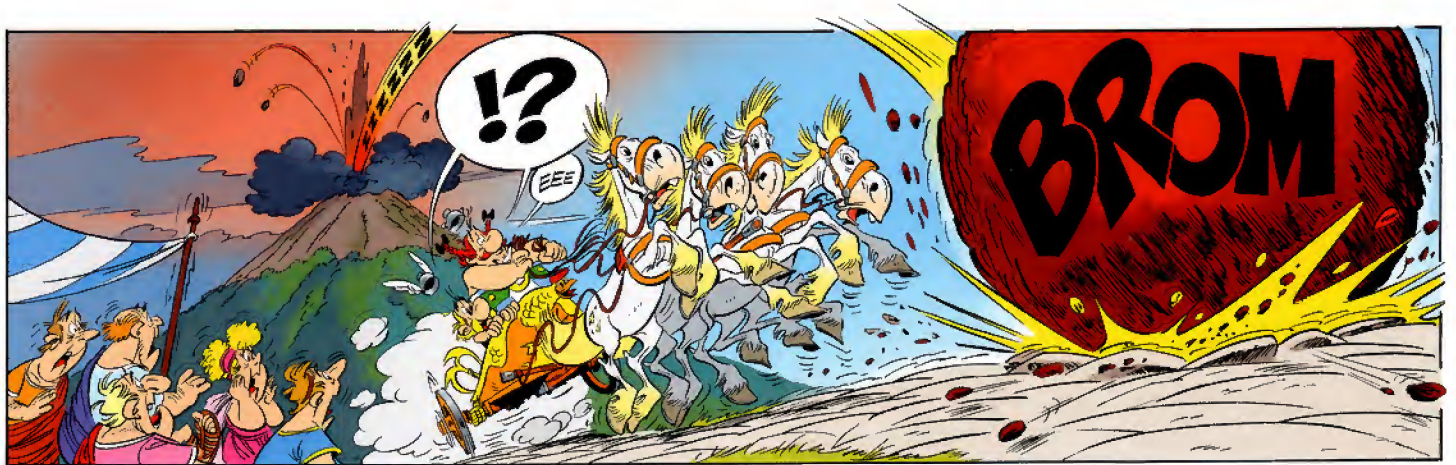
AND AS THE COCK CROWS THE CONTESTANTS RACE CHEERFULLY ALONG THE APPIAN WAY, HEADING FOR CAMPANIA, SOUTH OF ROME ...



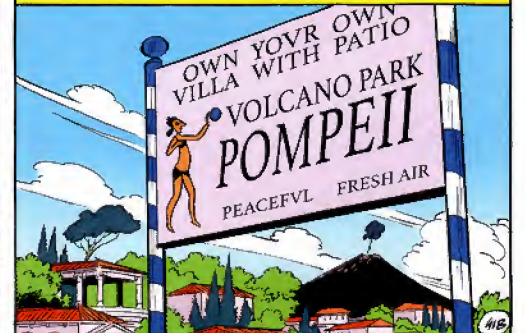


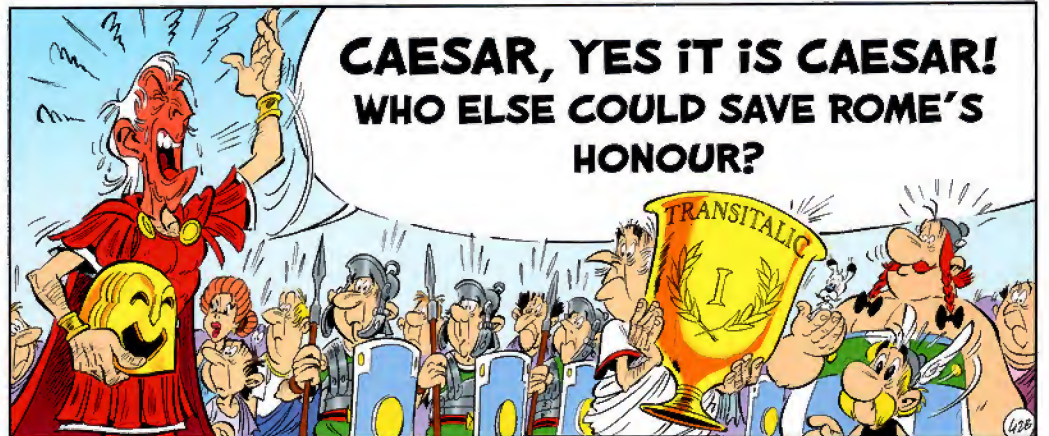
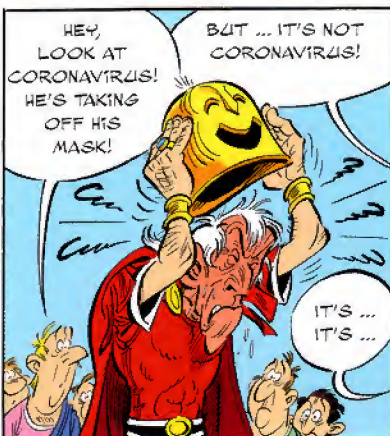
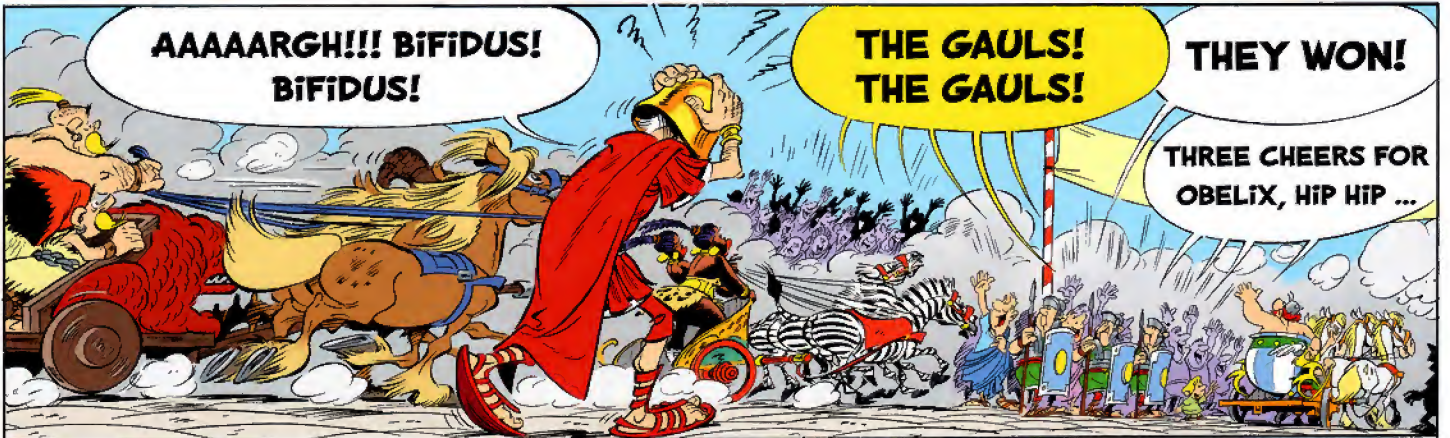
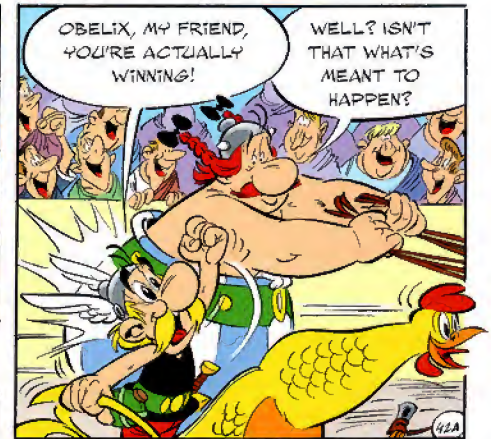
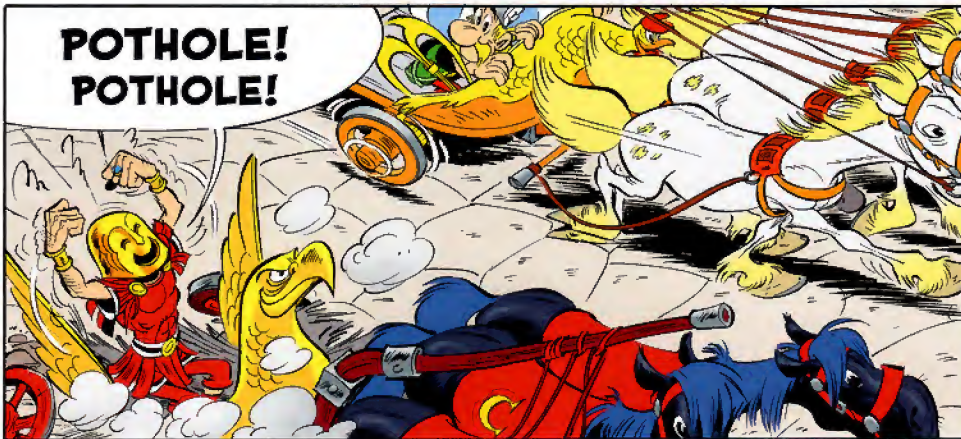
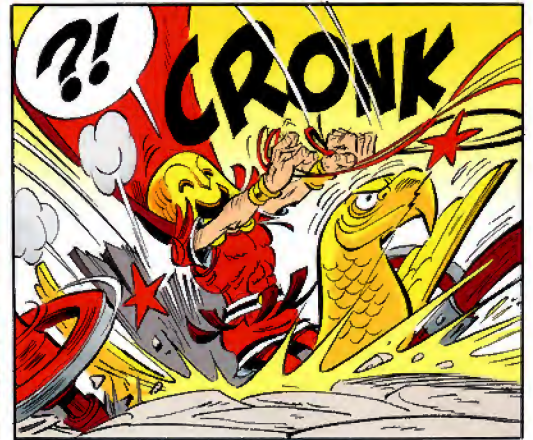
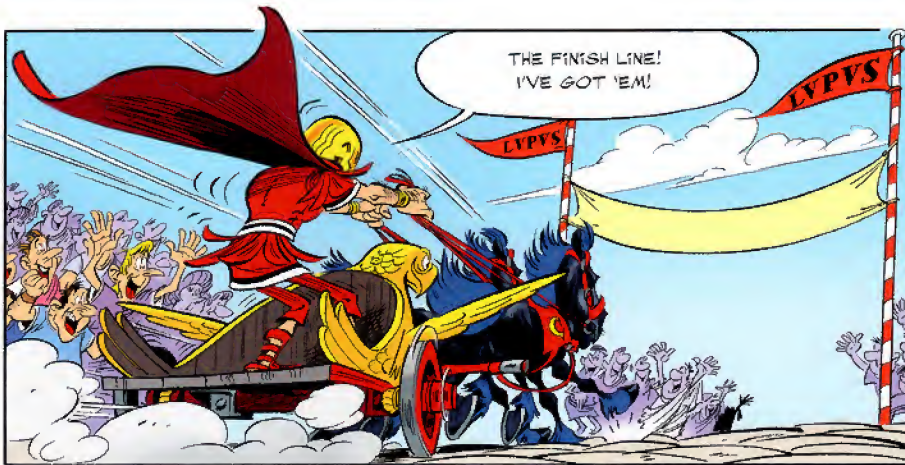


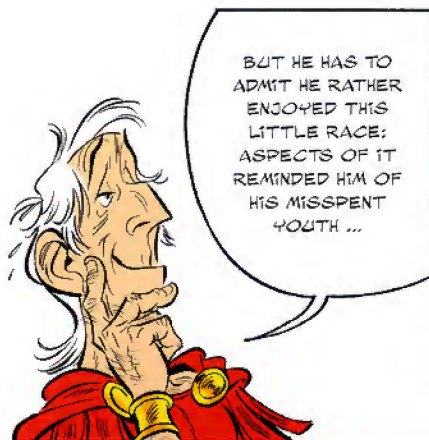




IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT OBELIX'S INTERVENTION AFFORDED THE VESUVIUS REGION A REASONABLY LONG PERIOD OF RESPIRE (UNTIL 79 AD).







BUT HE HAS TO ADMIT HE RATHER ENJOYED THIS LITTLE RACE: ASPECTS OF IT REMINDED HIM OF HIS MISSPENT YOUTH ...



EVER THE SPORTSMAN, CAESAR RALLIES TO THE CRY OF HIS PEOPLE! IN THE NAME OF ROME AND ALL ITALY, CAESAR GIVES THE TRANSITALIC CUP TO THE GAULS!



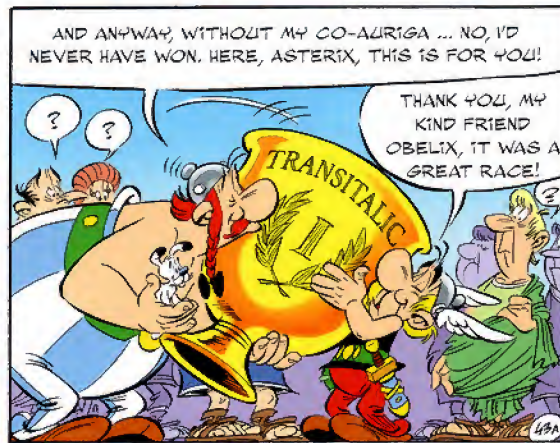
LONG LIVE CAESAR!

HURRAY FOR OUR GREAT LEADER!

HERE'S TO ROME!
HERE'S TO ITALY!



UM ... I'VE BEEN THINKING, CHARIOT RACING'S NOT REALLY MY THING, HERE ONE DAY, THERE THE NEXT, NO PEACE, THE CONSTANT SPEED, GRABBING MEALS ON THE HOOF ...

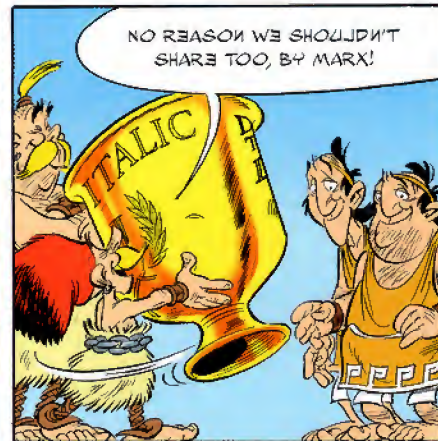


AND ANYWAY, WITHOUT MY CO-AURIGA ... NO, I'D NEVER HAVE WON. HERE, ASTERIX, THIS IS FOR YOU!

THANK YOU, MY KIND FRIEND OBELIX, IT WAS A GREAT RACE!



WE ALL EARNED THIS CUP, I'D LIKE TO HAND IT ON TO OUR KUSHITE FRIENDS!



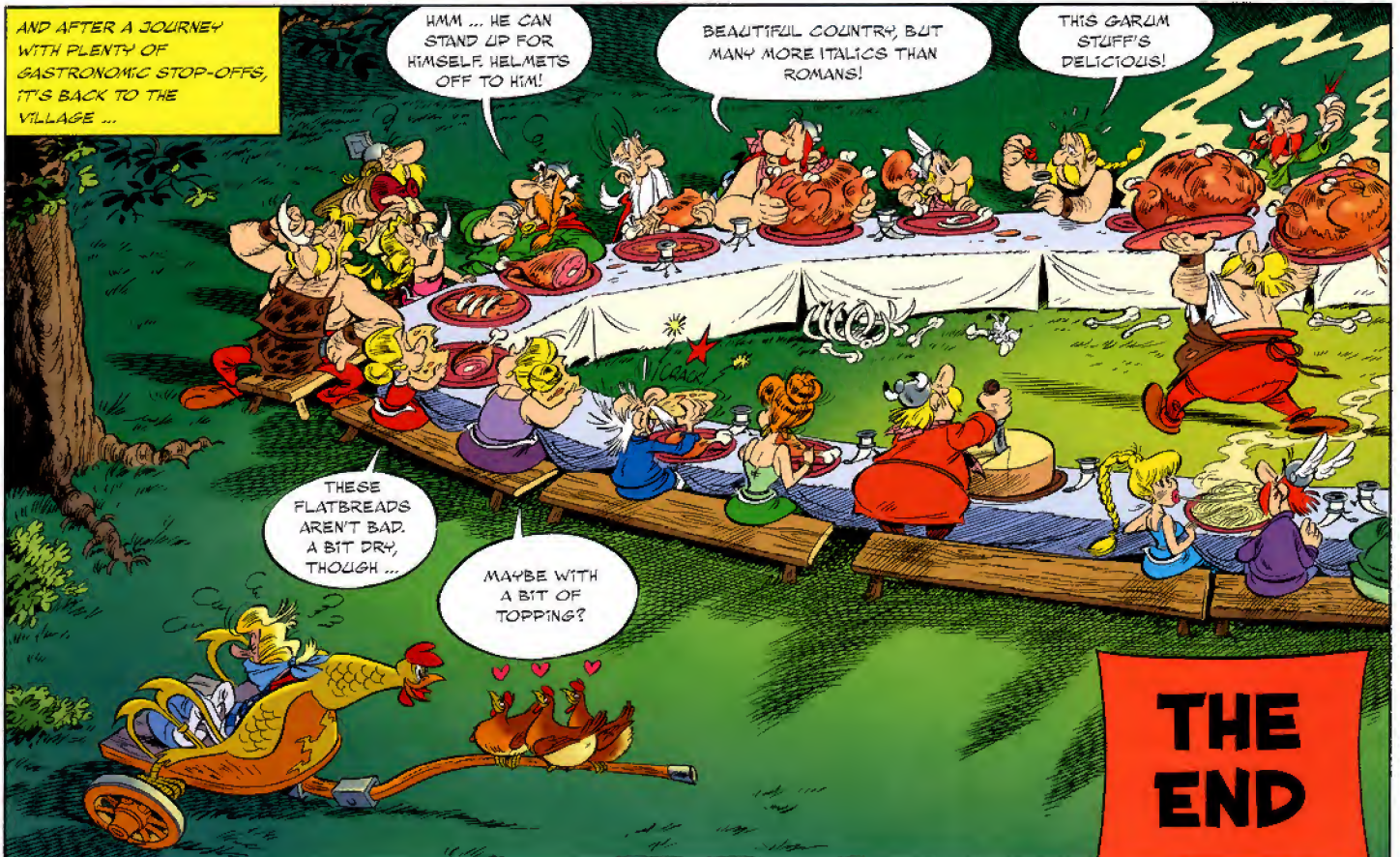
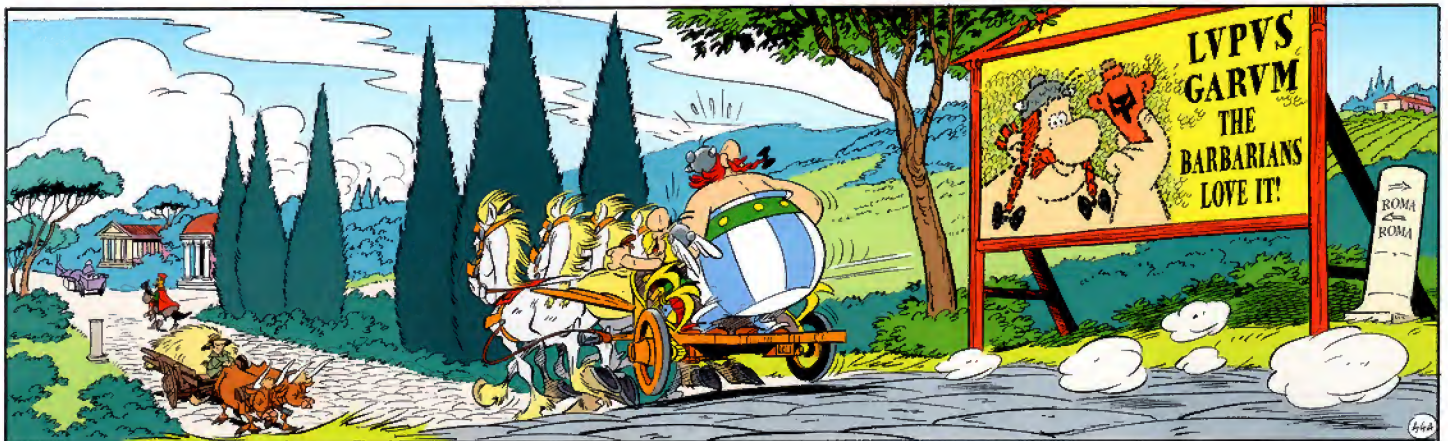
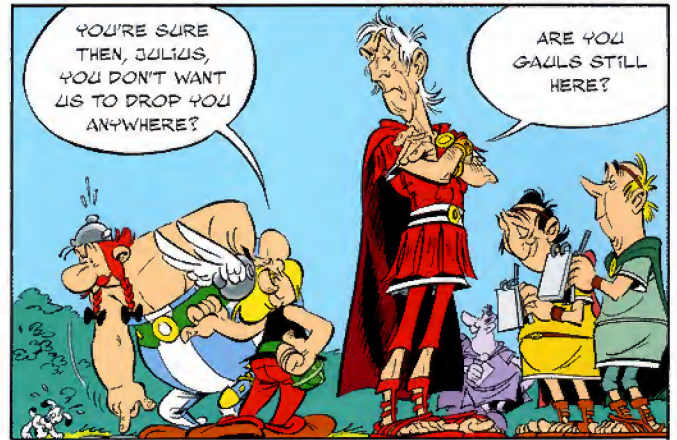
NO REASON WE SHOULDN'T SHARE TOO, BY MARX!



I DISAGREE! THE CUP SHOULD GO TO THE MOST PERSISTENT TEAM: THE LUSITANIANS, BY ZEUS!

TAKE THE EQUIVALENT IN SESTERCES, UNDAURESS! WE'RE GOING TO NEED A NEW CHARIOT!

BLOK TUNK



FERRI + CONRAD

The roads
across Italy
are in disrepair.
Defending his
name, and to prove
Rome's greatness,
Senator Lactus
Bifidus announces a
special one-off chariot
race. Julius Caesar
insists a Roman must
win, or Bifidus will pay.
Open to anyone from the
known world, competitors
arrive from far and wide,
including Asterix and
Obelix. With Bifidus secretly
scheming, who will win this
almighty chariot race?



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